

A WORKER'S GRAPHIC MEMOIR OF THE FUKUSHIMA MUCLEAR POWER PLANT



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## The Simple Testimony of a Fighting Man

## An Introduction to Ichi-F

What happened in the days following March 11, 2011 at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, 200 kilometers northeast of Tokyo? While thousands of reports exist, there will probably never be a single, fully comprehensive account of the enormous, 9.0-magnitude earthquake, or the catastrophic tsunami it caused. At Fukushima, the towering wave destroyed the reactor's backup cooling systems, which caused the reactor's fuel rods to heat up and eventually melt down. Hydrogen that then built up inside some of the reactor buildings led to a dramatic explosion, and radioactive substances were released in massive amounts. Tens of thousands of residents evacuated, and the whole world looked on with deep concern. It took six months to regain control over the power plant, and its dismantling and renaturation will take 40 years.

Today, thousands of workers have struggled with the innards of the nuclear cadaver. They battle scorching heat and freezing cold in their work to clean up the site. Some have no background at all in nuclear power, but all are determined to find a way to cope with this, the world's worst nuclear accident since the Chernobyl incident in Ukraine in 1986

One of these men is manga artist Kazuto Tatsuta, whose talent has given us a rare and unusual look behind the scenes of Fukushima Daiichi, or "Ichi-F" (which means "I-F" in Japanese). Do not expect titillating details about how many will contract radiation sickness, the ecological or agricultural impact, or the astronomical sums and cutting-edge technology it would take to salvage the melted fuel rods.\(^1\) Tatsuta, like many others, has no definitive answers to these questions, but in this book he does share something that no journalist, doctor, radiation expert, politician, anti-nuclear activist, or anyone else could. He shows us how the workers of Fukushima live every day and night, the condition of their work, what they think, what they see, and what they talk about. Because he is one of them.

Luckily, this unique testimony also comes to us from a new manga artist. Tatsuta is gifted with an extraordinary talent, one that has already won him many accolades. Of

l According to the latest information on Ichi-F, there have been no deaths or recorded instances of radiation sickness or major ecological or agricultural impacts.

course, because it is necessarily subjective, his testimony is incomplete and sometimes controversial, but it is an essential contribution to the literature. Tatsuta is one of the few who can furnish us with a realistic impression of what it's like to live at Fukushima – a name that will be forever entwined with the tragedy that happened there after March 11, 2011. It should also be noted that, while this is perhaps the most unique, dozens of manga about the catastrophe have been published in Japan in the years since, because, for Japanese people, manga is a shared way of seeing that goes beyond entertainment.

Few of the workers at Fukushima have the ability, the will, the right, or the courage to share their knowledge. They are possibly not aware of the significance of their experiences to the public. But Tatsuta's brave work creating this book shows us a new side of the work at Fukushima. However onerous it may be, it's not all bleak pain and fear. For these men, part of the story is also friendship, laughter, and a shared purpose. In other words, this is a human story, one that will deeply move its readers. One comes to imagine the workers of Fukushima as a team of Sisyphuses, working at an absurd task, one that involves neither creating anything nor enriching anyone, and one that they will not see the end of, because their time on the crew is limited by their total radiation exposure.

One could read *Ichi-F* and object: The protagonist is a little too compliant, a little too naïve, a little too unaware of the extent of the danger. Some have even accused him of taking the "side" of TEPCO, the power company. Some of that may be true, but Tatsuta is a man who has made a choice to offer his insight. He never claims to be delivering the one and only truth; he merely drew what he lived through, like a soldier who comes home from war and puts his small part of the sweeping battle down on paper. He may not grasp the whole picture, but that does not lessen the value of his experience.

Karyn Nishimura Poupée

A journalist and Japan correspondent for Agence France-Presse (AFP). Poupee was in Tokyo on March II, 2011, experiencing the catastrophe and its impact firsthand. Since then, she has covered the disaster extensively. She is also the author of several books on Asia, Japan, and manga.

This introduction was arranged by Dargaud-Lombard s.a. (Kana), the publisher of French edition of Au coeur de Fukushima published in March 2016. It was also published in German edition of Reaktor IF - Ein Bericht aus F





Sign-Fureai Intersection



























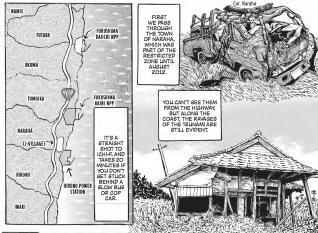


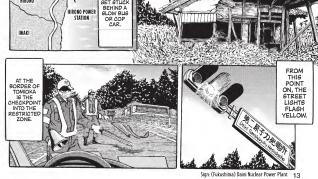




IT'S SO
PACKED
PACKED
DURING
RUSH HOUR,
YOU OFTEN
NEED TO
WAIT FOR
A SECOND
BUS.

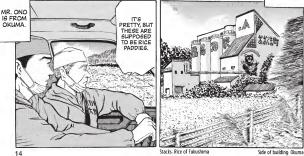








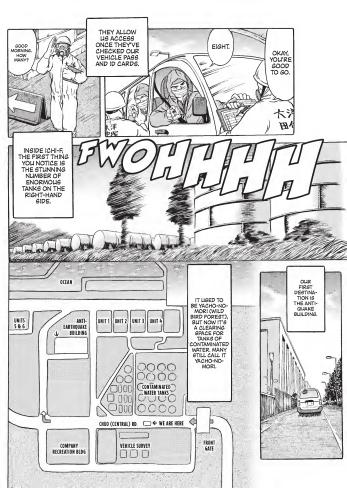










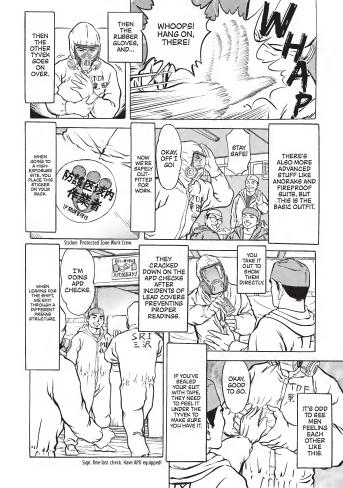




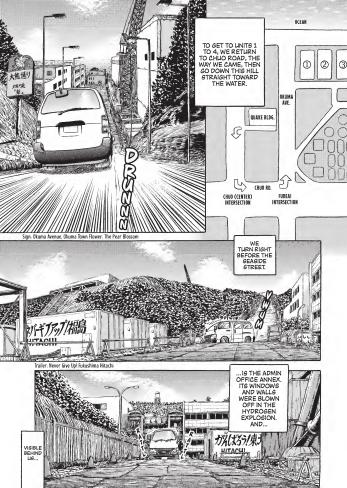












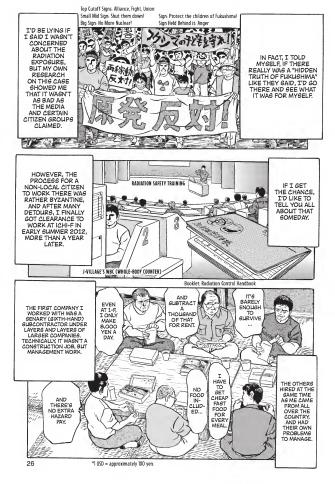




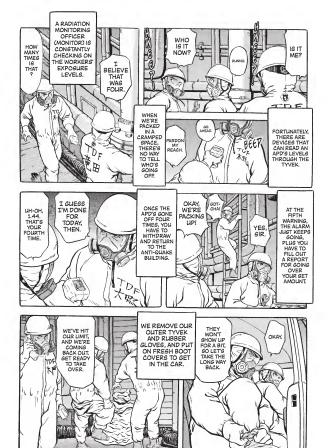




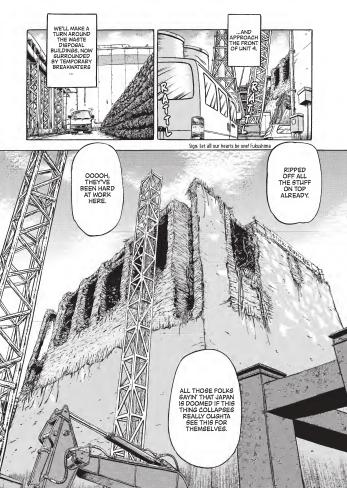


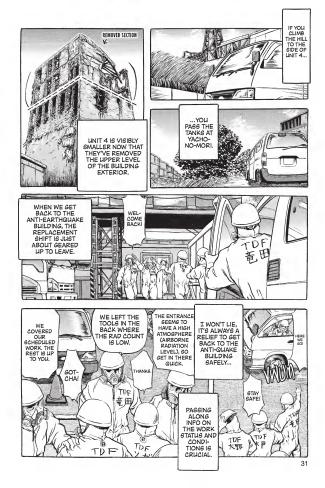


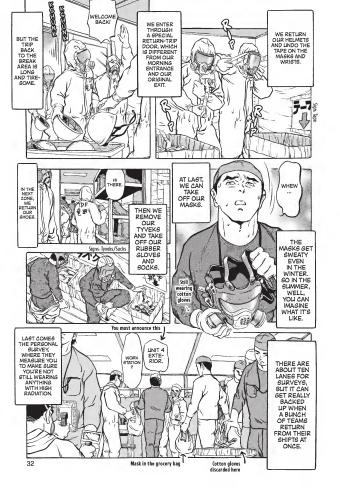




















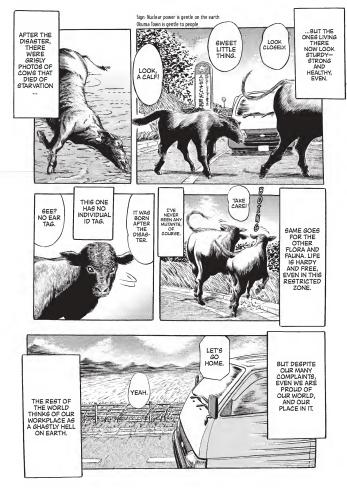


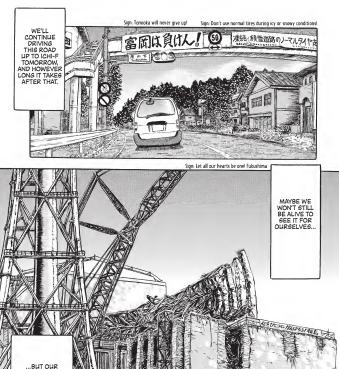










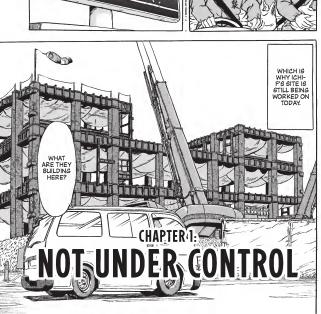


MISSION WILL
CONTINUE
UNTIL THE
DAY WE'VE
ERASED THIS
WORKPLACE
FROM
FUKUSHIMA.

CHAPTER O-END

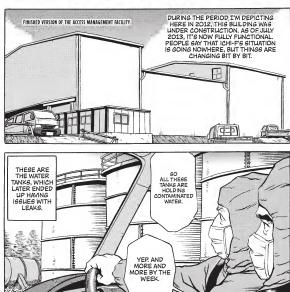




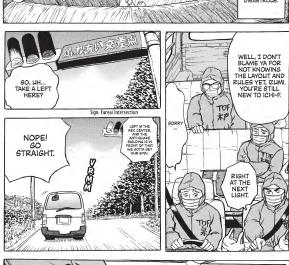




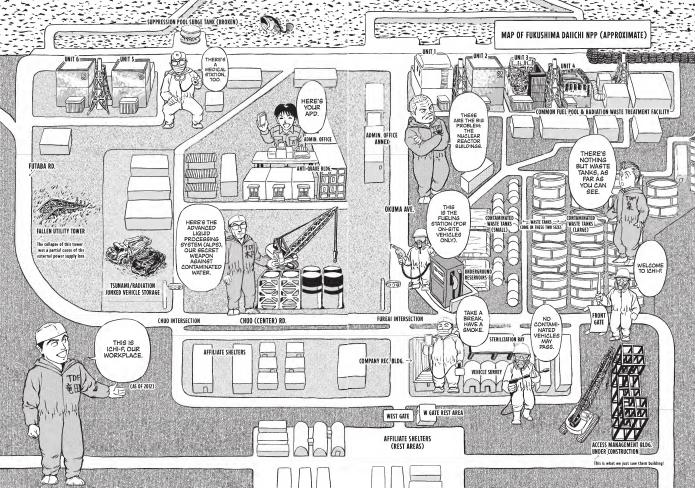








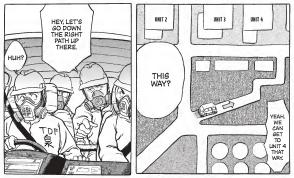




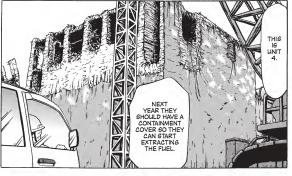
Depending on the time and company, our break areas switch between the anti-quake building and the rec center. Plant construction companies like Hitachi and Toshiba have their own break areas.



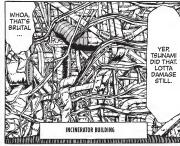






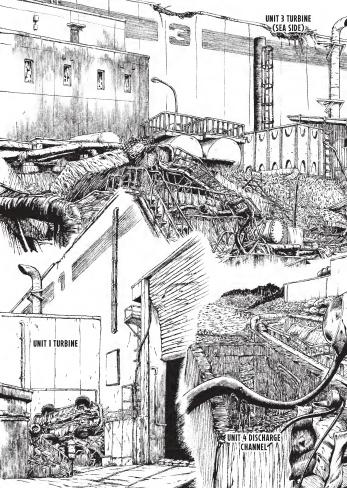


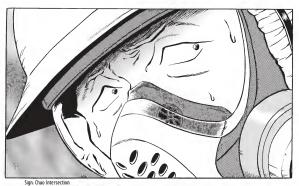








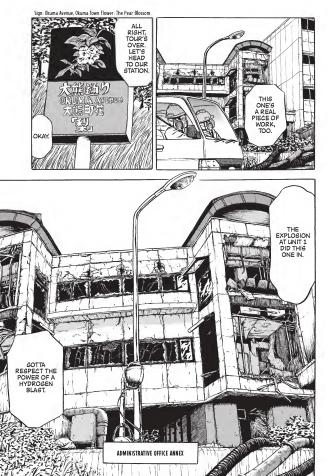


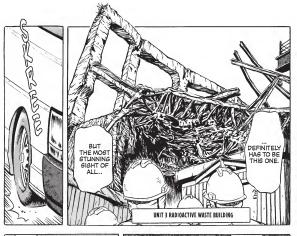


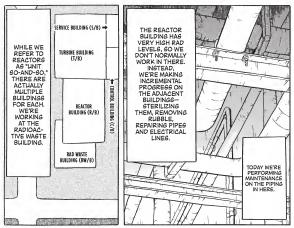






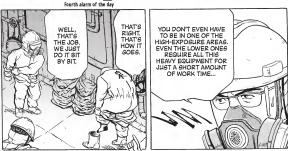














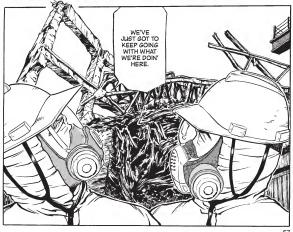


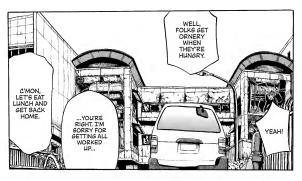


SOME OF THEM MIGHT BE HAPPIER IF IT'S NOT UNDER CONTROL, BECAUSE THAT WAY IT SUITS THEIR ARGUMENT BETTER.















\*Radiation hormesis: the hypothesis that low doses of radiation induce healthy body processes.

MAYBE

IT'S THE

HORMESIS\*



WE'RE

HERE TODAY.

OH,

GOOD POINT.

DON'T BE CRAZY. IT'S JUST 'CUZ WE GOT UP

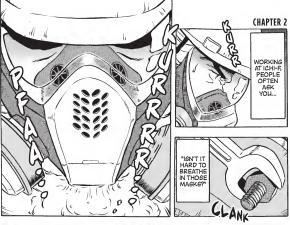
BEFORE

DAWN!

THIS STATION WENT OUT OF SERVICE DUE TO THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE. AS OF MARCH 2014, IT IS STILL OFFLINE, BUT JR EAST IS WORKING HARD TO RESUME SERVICE FROM HIRONO TO TATSUITA THIS YEAR. THIS STATION IS THE SOURCE OF THE PEN NAME, "KAZUTO TATSUITA." BY THE WAY, THE STATIONS STILL CLOSED IN THE FORMER RESTRICTED ZONE ARE, FROM THE SOUTH GOING UPWARD, KIDO STATION, TATSUITA STATION, TOMICKA STATION, VONOMORI STATION, ONO STATION, FUTABA STATION, MAMIE STATION, MOMOULH STATION, ODAKA STATION, AND IWAKI-OTATION. OT HOSE, THE RECONFIGURING OF THE RESTRICTED ZONE MEANS THAT SEVEN OF THOSE (ASIDE FROM YONOMORI, ONO, AND FUTABA) ARE NOW ACCESSIBLE AGAIN.

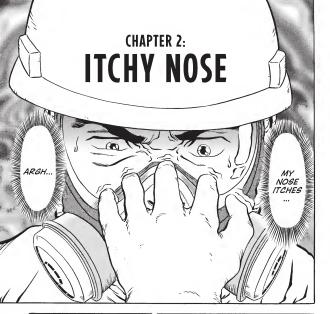


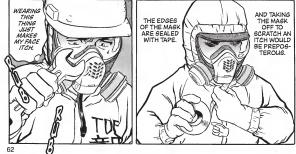
AFTER THE ZONE RECONFIGURATION, WHEN KAZUTO TATSUTA FIRST VISITED THE STATION, THERE WERE STILL WANTED POSTERS UP FOR AUM SHINRIKYO'S MAKOTO HIRATA. THIS WAS MANY MONTHS AFTER HE HAD ALREADY BEEN APPREHENDED, SO IT FELT LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED AT THE STATION.

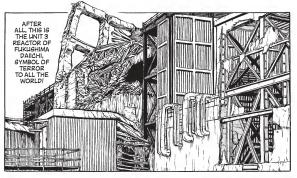






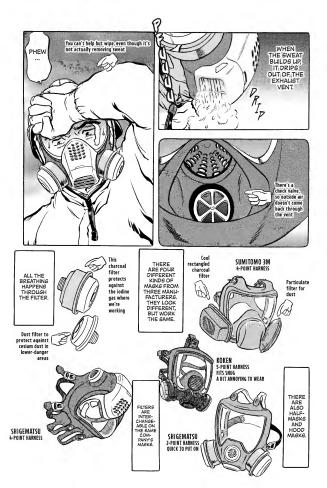


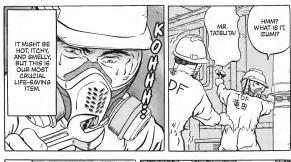




















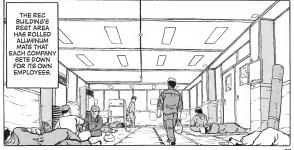






































## The plastic sheets over the roofs damaged by the quake are still left there











































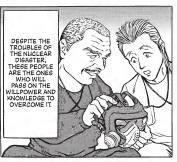






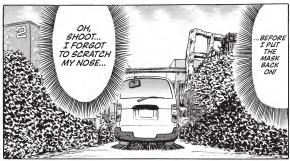


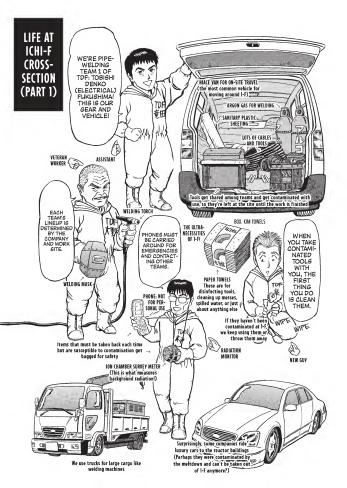












IN CHAPTER 2, MR. ONO SAYS "THERE'S NOTHING [HE] CAN DO ABOUT" HIS HOME IN OKUMA. HE REFERS TO THE RADIATION, OF COURSE, BUT NOT JUST THAT. MANY WORKERS WHO WERE ALLOWED TO TEMPORARILY VISIT THEIR HOMES IN THE RESTRICTED ZONES FOUND THEY HAD BEEN SOILED BY WILD ANIMALS.





AND NOT JUST
ANIMALS—
MANY WERE
OVERRUN WITH
PLANTS, TOO.
NATURE CAN
BE FIER CE
TO HUMAN
HABITATS WITH
NO RESIDENTS
ANYMORE.

## CHAPTER 3: HELLO WORK, 2011









MR.
TSURUMI
16 59,
WITH A
FAMILY
AND
GRANDKIDS IN
KANAGAWA.





MR. TAMANA IS 52, FROM KUMAMOTO. HE WAS A PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BEFORE THIS.









Sign: Employment Service Center









WHY?

THAT WILL

HELP THOSE

AFFECTED

BY THE DISASTER. PLUS

THE

PAY IS

GOOD.

OF THE JOB

COUNSELORS

HAD THIS

REACTION.













Form: Introduction











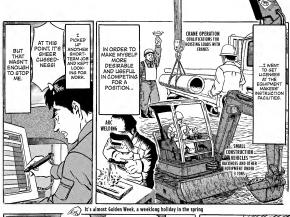


















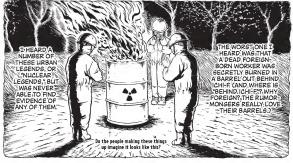




















\*Radiation Control Handbook: necessary to work at a nuclear plant!







I'D SLEEP.













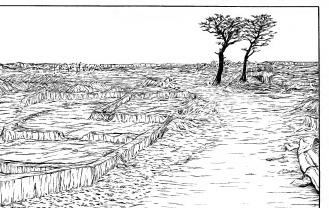














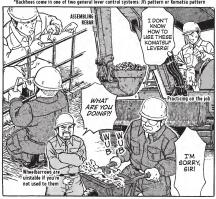








\*Backhoes come in one of two general lever control systems: JIS pattern or Komatsu pattern





Cans: Tea WE GOT THANK YOU A JOB AT WE WERE FOR THE ICHI-F! GO LURED HERE JUST AS OPPOR-ON DOWN ON THE WE ALL TUNITY. TO IWAKI, PROMISE OF WERE NOW! 20,000 YEN READY нин A DAY, SO TO GIVE ?! SOME PEOPLE UP... WEREN'T INCLINED HANKS TO STICK FOR AROUND. YOUR WORK. GOOD













"Stamps like the one depicted are used in Japan in lieu of a signature.

HOW MANY COMPANIES TEP CO 18 THE URCE. ARE ABOVE LIS IN THE CHAIN?

CHAIN?

LET'S GEE. THE CONTRACTOR IS IN THE CONTRACTOR IS IN THE CHAIN?

THEN THERE'S
THE PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY
SUBCONTRACTORS
UNDER THE MASTER,
AND WE HAVEN'T
VISITED ANY OF
THEM TODAY...

Note: All names

made up aside from TEPCO! WE'RE THE SENARY, SIXTH FROM THE MASTER...

Banetsu Industrial

Master Contractor ☞ Toyo Enex Primary Subcontractor ☞ Shibahama Technol Fukushima

Work Source 🖙 TEPCO

We only visited these three today Fonomori Engineering

























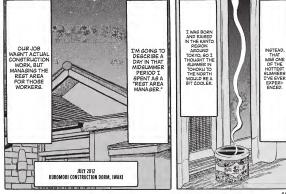


























































A line you hear later at work

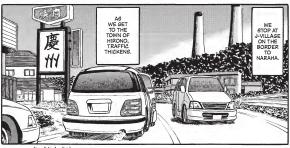






























This is a guard from the security company

These are nationwide riot police units who came to help















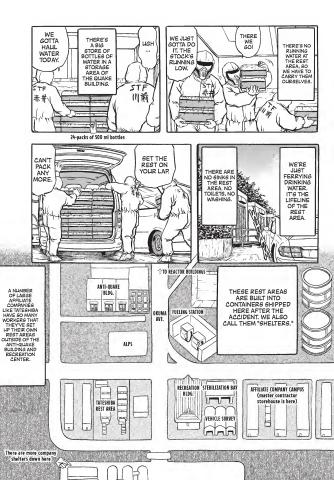


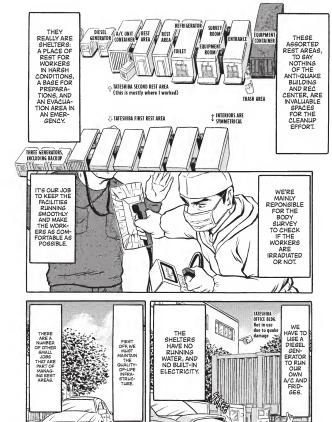
The minimum setting for the rest area is 0.8 mSv (CONTROL OF CONTROL OF CONTR



114

I leave the mask on because we leave just after arriving





(Even though it's power plant...)











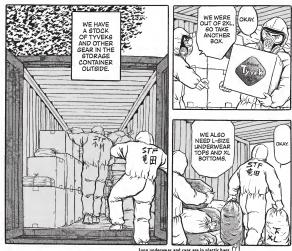










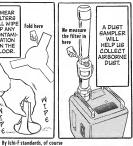




Sign: Tateshiba #2. Rest Area









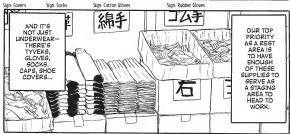
BY THE WAY, THE REST AREA READINGS DIFFER DEPENDING ON THE SPOT BUT GENERALLY BETWEEN 3.0 AND 5.5 MICROSIEVERTS, AND WE DON'T GET OUTLIER READINGS ON SMEARS OR DUST. IT'S A CLEAN LOW-RAD ENVIRONMENT.

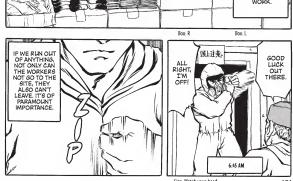












Sign: Watch your head









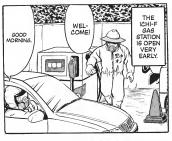


















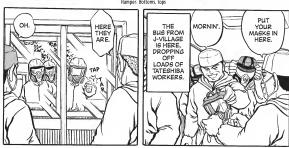




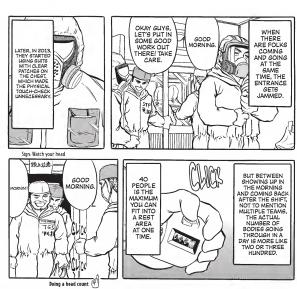














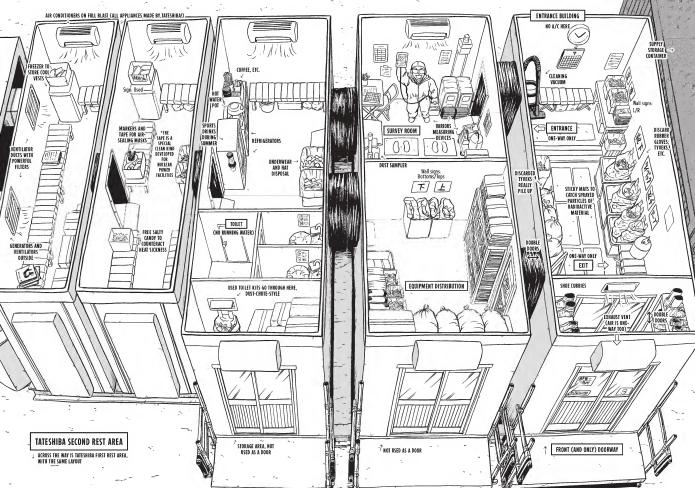
Sign: Watch your head

Sign: Cotton gloves



Sign (mirrored): Tateshiba #2 Rest Area

## TATESHIBA SECOND REST AREA LAYOUT MAP



BY ONE'S GLASS BADGE, THE PRIMARY CONTRACTOR HOLDS ONTO THE HANDBOOK. ONLY RETURNING IT WHEN ONE OUITS THEIR SERVICE.





THE WORKER ID AND BARCODE MUST BE HANDED IN, SO THE ONLY RECORD OF ONE'S WORK THERE IS THIS HANDBOOK. INCIDENTALLY, THE WORKER ID CONTAINS A HOLOGRAM, SO IT CAN'T BE COUNTERFEITED WITH A COLOR COPIER.



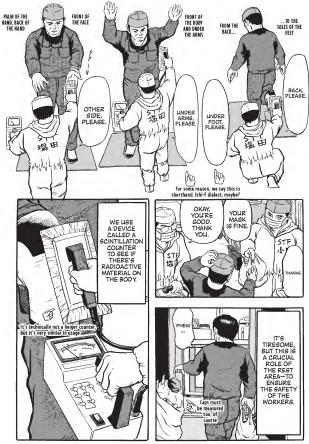


## It's a Tateshiba rule to clean returning masks with wet wipes













We called this "Pocari," but I don't know if the contents are actually that product. It tasted the same, though.









Carton: Cafe Au Lait







































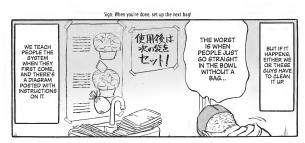


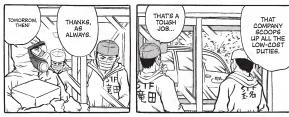










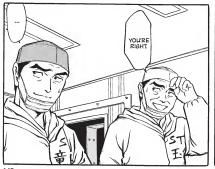


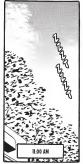


















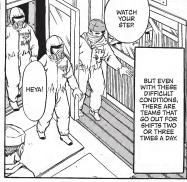












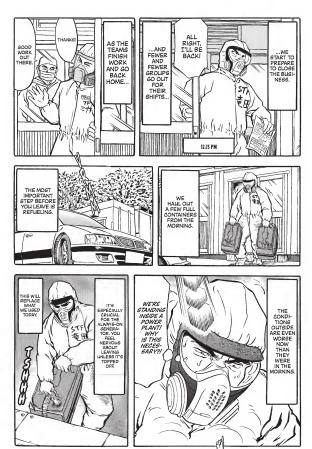
















Placing the contamination testing permit in a visible spot



Certificate: Measurement complete











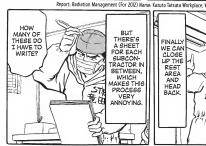








Report: Radiation Management (For 2012) Name: Kazuto Tatsuta Workplace, Work detail Tateshiba Rest Area, Survey duty





WELL. YOU WERE

AND IT'S

DOOR.















154

Don't do this at home, kids





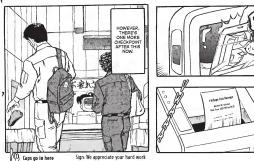






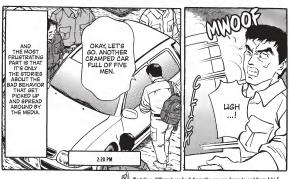


















CHAPTER 5 - END



RIGHT NOW THIS TRAIN STATION IS OPEN AGAIN, BUT IT WAS OFF-LIMITS UNTIL MARCH 31, 2013, SO THE EFFECTS OF THE EARTHQUAKE ARE STILL QUITE VISIBLE. THE STATION BUILDING WAS WASHED AWAY BY THE TSUNAMI, AND WEEDS COVER THE TRACK. THE ROADS HAVE BEEN CLEARED BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO TEMPORARILY RETURN HOME, BUT THE STORES AND HOTELS AROUND THE STATION ARE STILL IN A DESTROYED STATE. THE TOWN OF TOMIOKA. LIKE OTHERS.



IS STILL STUCK IN TIME SINCE MARCH 2011.

AT PRESENT, TOMIONA STATION AT LEAST HAS A TEMPORARY BATHROOM, UNLIKE AUTHOR FIRST VISITED. TATSUTA BELIEVES THIS WAS SET UP BECAUSE OF THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO VIEW TOMEN TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO VIEW TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO VIEW TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TOMEN TO THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMING TO VIEW TOMEN TOMEN









WELL

LET'S

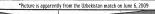
SEE...

Sion: Café Renoir 161





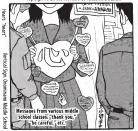






163





































I won't repeat any questions, since they reuse them, but they're super easy, so if you're going to take the test, don't worry!

\*Whole-body counter







MOST OF THE WBCs ARE THE SEATED KIND, WHICH ARE LESS RELIABLE IN TERMS OF PRECISION. BUT THAT'S NO DOUBT BECAUSE THEY NEEDED TO GET A BUNCH OF THEM IN SHORT ORDER.

Just sit still for two minutes wearing only a shirt





BY MEASURING
THE BODY'S
LEVEL OF
RADIOACTIVITY
BEFORE
WORKING AND
COMPARING IT
TO THE LEVELS
AFTER A FEW
MONTHS, YOU
GAIN AN IDEA OF
THE PRESENCE
OF RADIATION AT
THE WORK SITE.

(ircle: (Certified)

Sheet: Whole-Body Counter Results; Location: Tokyo Electric WBC Center; Company: Toyo Enex; Name: Kazuto Tatsuta; Count Rate: 1205 cpm(NET)

HOWEVER,
THERE ARE LIRBAN
LEGENDS THAT THE
WBCs AT JV ARE
"TWEAKED TO GIVE
LOWER NILMBERS,"
AND "THE SAME
PERSON MEASLIRED
AT A DIFFERENT
PLANT'S WBC.
GOT WAY HIGHER
NILMBERS."







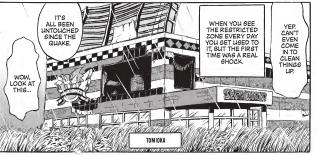




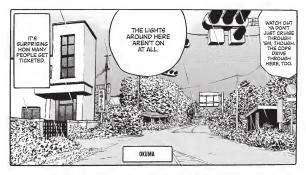




In June 2012, everything past JV was the restricted zone, but later in August, they opened up the town



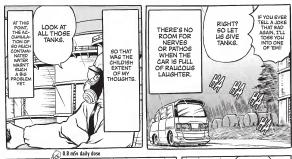




















I assumed there would be a bunch of pubes all over the floor (sometimes there are

























WE'D HEARD RLMORS THAT THEY PURPOSEFULLY LEFT THE RANGE WIDE OR OTHERWISE TWEAKED THE MACHINES, SO I DECIDED TO ASK.

























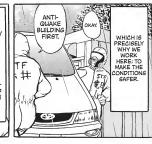










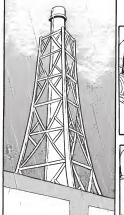














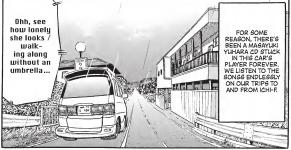








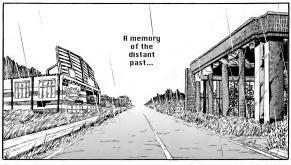




"Rain Ballad" (1971)

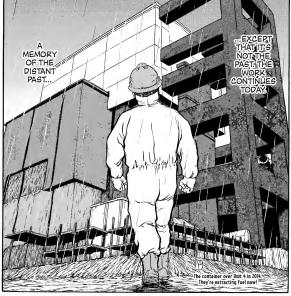












# EXTRA STORY: IWAKI'S WORKING POOR





An apartment near the train station











Receipt: May 2012 Paycheck Receipt, Kazuto Tatsuta, Kuromori Construction

























# TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 1

### MAKOTO HIRATA, PAGE 60

A fugitive of the infamous Aum Shinrikyo cult that was responsible for the sarin gas attack on a Tokyo subway in 1995. While nearly 200 members of the cult have been apprehended and brought to trial, a trio managed to stay at large for many years, and were often featured on wanted posters nationwide. One of the three, Hirata, caused a stir when he turned himself in to police on New Year's Eve 2011, just minutes before 2012 beaan.



AFTER THE ZONE RECONFIGURATION, WHEN KAZUTO TAUDITA FIRST WISTED THE STATION, THERE WERE STILL WANTED POSTERS UP FOR AUM SHINKIKYO'S MAKOTO HIRATA. THIS WAS MANY MONTHS AFTER HE HAD ALREADY BEEN APPREHENDED, SO IT FELT LIKE TIME HAD STOPPED AT THE STATION.



# THE "MONEY" SIGN, PAGE 83

You may notice that some of the characters make a little circle with their thumb and forefinger when discussing financial matters. This is the colloquial Japanese sign for money, the equivalent of rubbing one's fingers together. It's implicitly understood, in these cases the characters don't explicitly say "money" in the original Japanese, but merely refer to it as "this" in reference to the hand gesture (e.g. "my job's going to make me a lot of this!").

# **GOLDEN WEEK, PAGE 87**

A customary vacation week in the first week of May, due to the cluster of a number of official holidays, including Constitution Memorial Day, Children's Day, and the Emperor's Birthday for Emperor Showa (who reigned from 1926-1989). Because the holidays are so close, the custom of going ahead and taking the entire week made Golden Week become a de facto weeklong holiday for many businesses.



### PACHINKO, PAGE 101

A uniquely Japanese form of gambling that is similar to playing a vertical pinball machine, only using much smaller balls that are closer to ball bearings. Many modern pachinko machines are actually "nachi-slots" that



function as slot machines when the balls are guided to trigger spots that then spin the slots. The payout is more balls, these balls are then exchanged for a relatively meaningless trinket that can then be exchanged for cash at a nearby storefront run by the pachinko parlor (in all but name), thus circumventing the antiquambling laws.

### POCARI, PAGE 136

A popular, everpresent sports beverage in Japan, known by the slightly alarming name (to English speakers)
"Pocari Sweat." The cloudy white drink, which is said to replenish electrolytes, has a very mild citrus flavor
and somewhat resembles a lighter, watery Gatorade.



We called this "Pocari," but I don't know if the contents are actually that product. It tasted the same, though

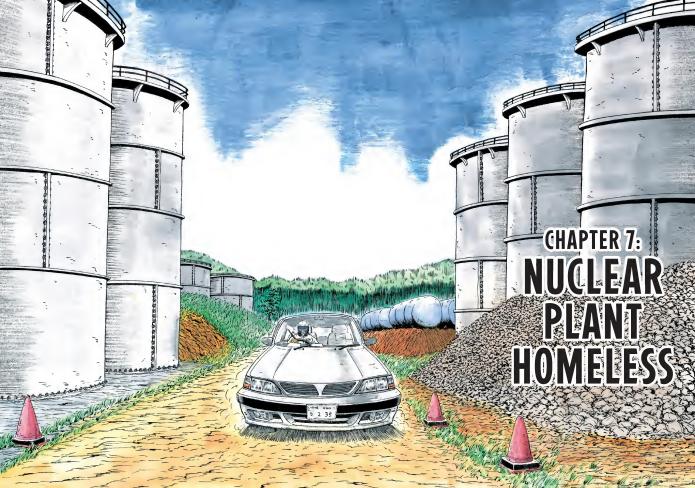
# ICHI-F

















AS THE REMOVAL OF DEBRIS CONTINUED AT UNIT 4, THE WERE ABLE TO USE A CRANE TO PULL OUT THE CONTAINMENT LID ON AUGUST 10TH LEAVING ONLY THE PRESSURE VESSEL (RPV) LID LEFT.



































































Sadly, I never ended up needing his help



































JUST ABOUT THE TIME THAT I WAS RESIGNING MYSELF TO LIVING OUT OF A CAR...



















































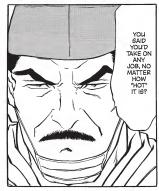




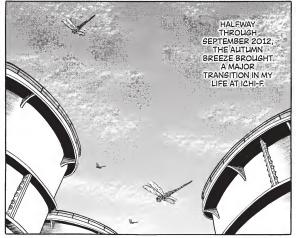












CHAPTER 7 - END

# **CHAPTER 8**

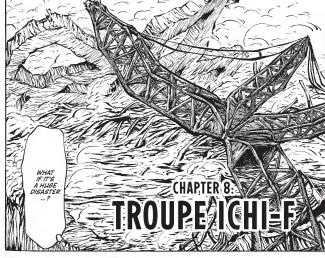




















EVEN WHEN NO ONE'S THERE, THE TATESHIBA REST AREA GENERATOR IS RUNNINS, 90 SOMEONE HAS TO GO FROM THE REC BUILDING TO REFUEL IT.

\*\*\*\*\*













(Please, don't spread unverified information, folks!)

















Label: Mikura Industries



TO THE

IT MIGHT

OF

IS

LINE.



## \*Delegating work to lower companies













## IN THIS EXAMPLE, XX INDUSTRIES IS THE QUATERNARY SUBCONTRACTOR AND YY CONSTRUCTION IS THE QUINARY AT WORKSITE A, WHILE THEIR PLACES IN THE CHAIN ARE REVERSED AT WORKSITE B.

...YOU WILL FIND THAT THE SAME COMPANY CAN BE BOTH ABOVE AND BELOW YOU IN DIFFERENT

WORK
ASSIGNMENTS.
(WITH WAGES
SCOOPED OUT
APPROPRIATELY,
OF COURSE.)

IN THIS SENSE, EACH QUATERNARY | QUINARY | SENARY \$\infty 20,000 | COMPANY KIND OF JUST GOES WITH THE FLOW WITH THE TAKES OUT TAKES OUT LOWEST RUNG ¥5,000 ¥5,000 ON THE JOB IN CHARGE OF SUPPLYING THE ACTUAL LABOR. TAKES OUT TAKES OUT YY CONSTRUCTION XX INDUSTRIES ¥6,000 ¥6 000

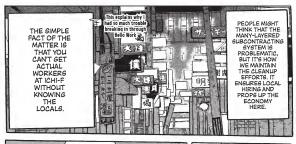
Site A

BY THE TIME YOU GET TO THE BOTTOM LEVEL, MOST OF THE PAY IS ESSENTIALLY ABOUT THE SAME.



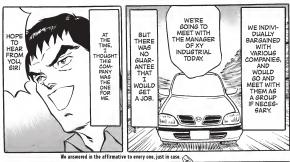


















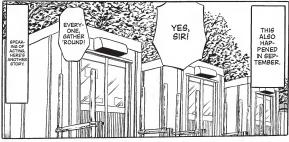














































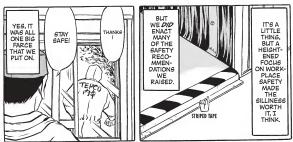






230

Very relieved that it worked

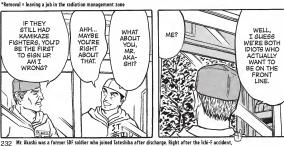












he got an assignment transporting materials to the site. (See Chapter 5)



















This lady works for the master contractor

\$ 54 GA 1



		1 74 75	21/200		
	THE HANDBOOK CONTAINS A LIST OF EXPOSURE READINGS FOR EACH MONTH OF SERVICE, AND THEY DON'T MARK THE OFFICIAL NUMBER DOWN UNTIL IT GETS	日 舊史	1.101.15.0	HOWEV THE TO BEING AD	
			0.6	UP BY APD I VIRTUAL THE SAM THE GLA BADGE VALUE, S IT'S A RL THEY C WRITE OF	
			0.8		
			0.6		
	READ FROM THE GLASS BADGE.	0.61	評価中	TOTAL A PROVISION	
	L(x)				
This takes about a month Top L Corner: Read					

्रधान्य समित्

BEING ADDED UP BY THE APD IS VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS THE GLASS BADGE'S VALUE, SO IF IT'S A RUSH, THEY CAN WRITE DOWN

HOWEVER,

THE TOTAL

THE APD TOTAL AS A PROVISIONAL NUMBER.

This takes about a month

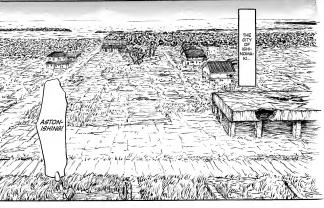
























Used to things being sudden

















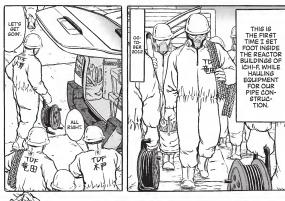


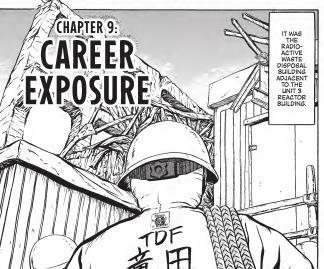


THE PEOPLE FROM THE SHOPPING DISTRICT OF HISANOHAMA WERE DEVASTATED BY THE GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE, AND THEY OPENED UP A TEMPORARY LOCATION ON THE GROUNDS OF HISANOHAMA FIRST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AS OF SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2011. IT'S NICE TO HEAR THE SHOPKEEPERS' ENERGETIC VOICES WHEN YOU STOP BY. THERE'S A NUMBER OF BUSINESSES, FROM SALONS TO BARS TO FISHMARKETS, AS WELL AS A SALES OUTLET FOR PHOTOS AND DVDS OF THE DISASTER DAMAGE.



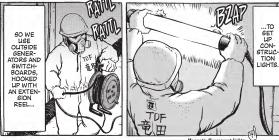
ON HIS WAY HOME FROM WORK, KAZUTO TATSUTA WOULD OCCASIONALLY STOP HERE AND DINE ON RAMEN OR POTSTICKERS NEAR THE EMTRANCE. IT'S ONE OF HIS FAVORITE PLACES TO VISIT IN IWAKI.









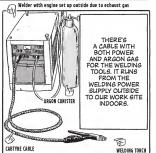










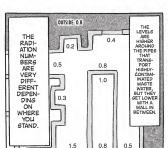


We use TIG (tungsten) welding for this job





Sign: The atmospheric radiation here is 0.5 mSv/h





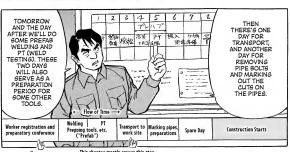




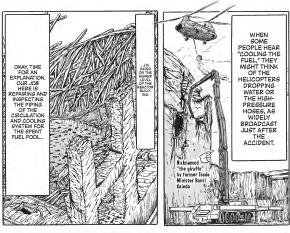


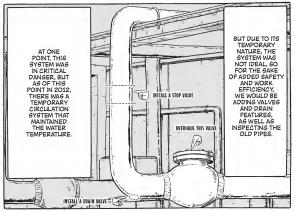


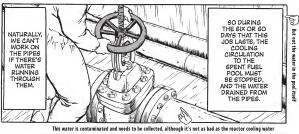


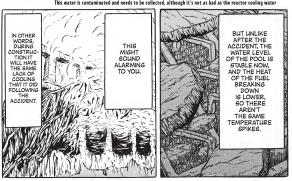


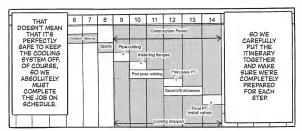






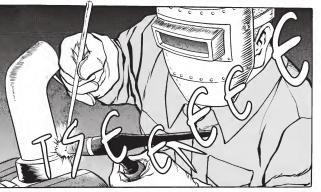








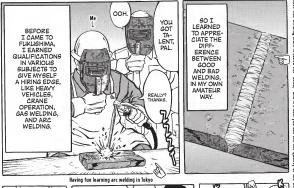
































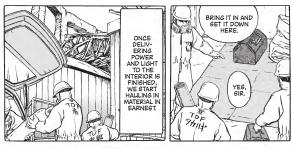






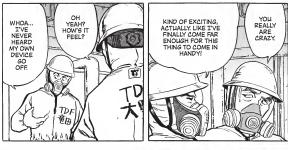




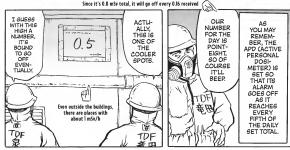








































We set up these dumping bags on the first day





Your mom scolded you for undressing this way as a kid, but here it's the right way!





260

We do discard the socks too, though



















## CHAPTER 10



























(I'm only assuming this.)

## At this time, it was the newest machine out





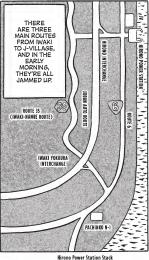




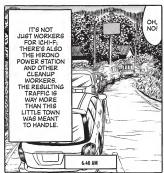
































In September 2014, it became possible to drive through here without a pass.



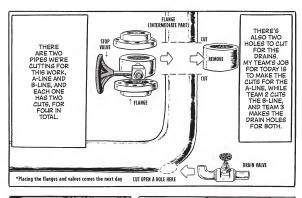
































THROUGH THE THICK REQUIRES CONSTANT SWITCHING OF THE CIRCULAR BLADES.

Package: Golden Egg, Resiton

I think we used around ten blades to cut the pipe in two places













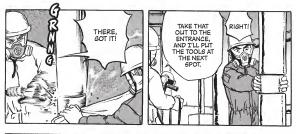




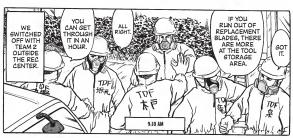




IT'S A
NECESSARY
MEASURE
BECAUSE IT
MINIMIZES
HIS YEARLY
EXPOSURE
TOTAL AND
ALLOWS HIM
TO WORK
LONGER.















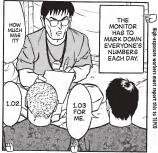






 $\downarrow$  The monitor got about 0.5 mSv

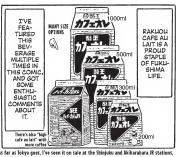




Our numbers are similar because we were in the same place all day









As far as Tokyo goes, I've seen it on sale at the Shinjuku and Akiharabara JR stations,





AFTER THE ACCIDENT, THERE WERE CRUEL RUMORS THAT THEY WERE MIXING IN DAIRY FROM OTHER AREAS TO REDUCE RADIATION LEVELS, IN GENERAL, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF UNFAIR STEREOTYPING OF THE FOOD SAFETY FROM THIS REGION, THE FACT THAT THEIR DAIRY INDUSTRY HAS REBOUNDED SO FIRMLY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE HARD WORK OF THE DAIRY FARMERS AND THE COMPANIES' STRICT QUALITY CONTROL

I'M MOVED BY THEIR EFFORTS!

278 Matsunaga Dairy "Ice Cream Buns

"Beko-no-Chichi Snow of Aizu" Yogurt



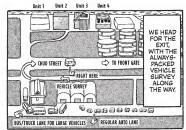




PLUS, I CAN ONLY
WORK AT THE
AMOUNT OF
RADIATION I
RECEIVED
TODAY FOR
YEAR, SO
IT'S NOT
EXACTLY
THAT
LUCRATIVE
IN THE
LONG RUN.















280

The higher wreckage has been taken away, so you can't see it from Chuo St. anymore

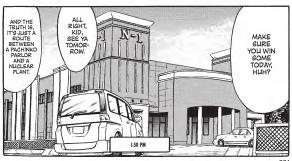
Roof: Somayaki Pottery



YOU CAN TAKE ROUTE & R

Sign: Thank you for your work









н

E

W

W

W

IT SEEMS

AND

SOI

END MY









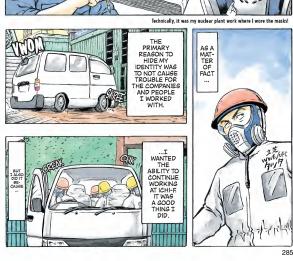
EARLIER IN THE BOOK IT WAS SAID THAT THIS STATION WAS OUT OF SERVICE, BUT AS OF JUNE 1ST, 2014, THE HIRONO-TATSUTA LINE WAS OPEN AGAIN. TOMICKA STATION, WHICH IS THE NEXT ONE TO THE NORTH, IS STILL CLOSED, SO FOR THE MOMENT, TATSUTA STATION IS THE END OF THE NORTHBOUND LINE FROM IWAKI, THOUGH IT WILL BE OPEN ALL THE WAY TO TOMICKA STATION BY 2017. CITIZENS ARE FREE TO WALK THROUGH THE AREA AROUND THE STATION TO HELP PREPARE FOR THE REPEAL OF THE RESTRICTED ZONE, BUT STAYING OVERNIGHT IS STILL FOREIDDEN.

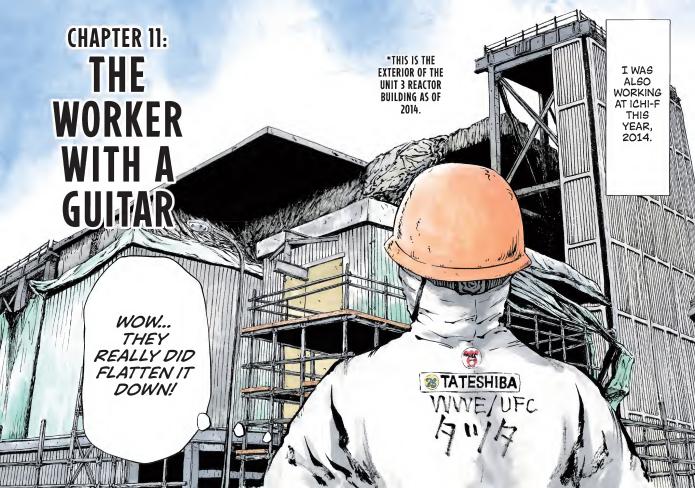


THE AUTHOR VISITED AT THE END OF 2014 AND FOUND THAT THE VENDING MACHINES OUTSIDE THE STATION HAD POWER AGAIN, AND SOME CONTAINED BEVERAGES THAT AREN'T SOLD ANYMORE, AND YET, THE POSTAL BOX OUT FRONT IS STILL COVERED WITH SHEETS.

## **CHAPTER 11**





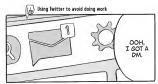


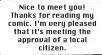














Nice to meet you!
Sorry about DMing you out
of the blue. I was surprised
to see pictures of my area
on your account. Can't wait
for more Iwaki pics!

AS A MATTER OF FACT, THIS ISN'T THE FIRST TIME WE'VE MET...







Former roommate (since we might live together again)



















Nakanoyu, the bathhouse I visited after work





















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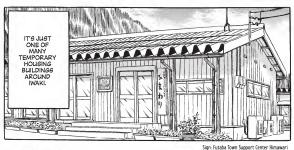


















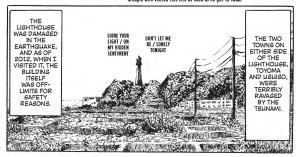








Groupie who visited this site as soon as he got to Iwaki





Atsuo Okamoto's "Kogen Ressha wa Yuku" (The Highlands Train Rides On) 298 A hit song of 1954 about the Numaiiri Railroad Line, written by Toshio Oka and composed by Yuji Koseki, both from Fukushima.







299









Sign: Watch out for scams! 300











Prayer: To go back home as soon as possible















singing 303









A LIVE MUSIC RESTAURANT/BAR NEAR IWAKI STATION, FEATURING PRO MUSICIANS IN A WIDE VARIETY OF GENRES. TATSUTA'S APPEARANCE HERE WAS ON AN "OPEN MIC" NIGHT, WHERE ANYONE IS FREE TO SIGN UP TO PERFORM. THE HOTEL IN THIS BUILDING HOUSES MANY 1-F WORKERS WHO COME DOWN TO QUEEN TO DRINK.



INCIDENTALLY,
THE OWNER, ISAO
KATO, A READER OF
ICHI-F, RECOGNIZED
TATSUTA'S IDENTITY
IMMEDIATELY
WHEN HE READ
THE SCENE OF HIS
"KYODAI-BUNE"
PERFORMANCE.







ooking extremely worried

\*Tatsuta was working at Ichi-F again while he was drawing this material, so Chapters 12 and 13 are short-format







\*The governor of Fukushima Prefecture has requested the Olympic Flame as well. If it does come true, the cleanup should be much further along by then. I want to run with it!











































GLASS BADGE DOSIMETER

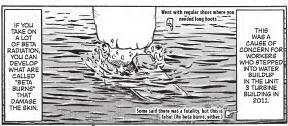


RING BADGE (Also called a glass ring, despite being plastic) ANOTHER
KIND OF
DOSIMETER
THAT GOES
OVER THE
FINGER,
CALLED
A RING
BADGE.

## \*Technically, it's the barium-137 that cesium-137 decays into that emits gamma rays. If you're curious about this stuff, I encourage you to research for yourself!











RING TENDS TO CAUSE A DIFF-ERENT PROBLEM. SO YOU HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFUL WHEN RETUR-NING FROM THE WORK SITE.

THIS





The bottom layer (cotton) gloves are sweaty and hard to remove







































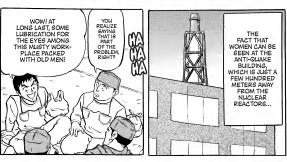


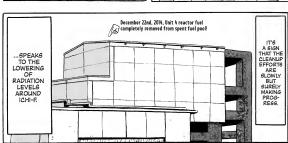














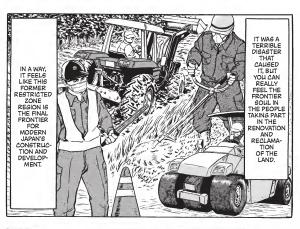


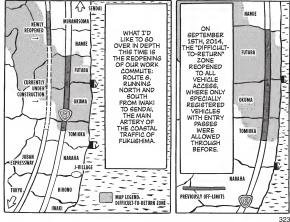


Sion: Radiation Levels Microsleverts/hour 0.19 uSv/h in this area



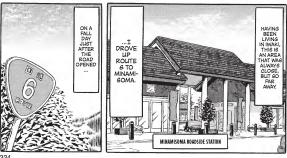
ON MY SECONDHAND CAR NAVIGATION UNIT, THERE'S NO DATA FOR THIS AREA, SO I'M JUST DRIVING THROUGH THE WILDERNESS.















Package: Shimiten







THIS IS A LOCAL DELICACY OF MINAMISOMA, CRISPY ON THE OUTSIDE AND CHEWY INSIDE, WITH A RICH FLAVOR.



Gate: No Entry

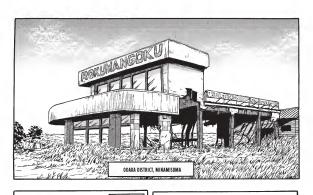


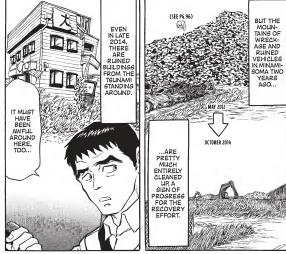




Carton: Matsunaga Coffee SOMA SOI DECIDED TO TOUR MINAMISOMA THE LOCAL STREETS THROUGH NARAHA THIS ENTIRE ON THE WAY BACK TRIP WAS MINAMISOMA AS A WAY JUST TO TAKE ROADSIDE STATION TO TAKE IN THE CHANCE THE SIGHTS TO EAT A OF WHAT SHIMITEN. HAD ONCE BEEN THE RESTRICTED ZONE. NAMIE

326

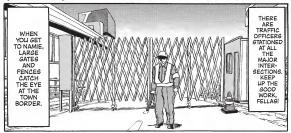






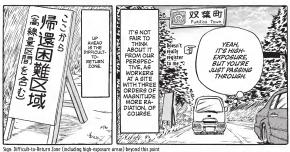


Sign: Animal/ Collision Warning













Sign: Don't open the irradiated highway!









AND THAT CAR WENT TO ICHI-F EVERY-DAY. AND NEVER GOT HELD UP IN VEHICLE SURVEY.



THAT SAFE TWO YEARS AGO, THEN I'D IMAGINE THE DANGER IS EVEN SLIGHTER NOW, WITH ALL THE DECONTAM-INATION EFFORTS AND ROAD WORK GOING ON







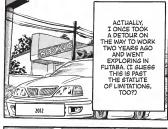


Sign: Local prosperity and a rich future with nuclear energy

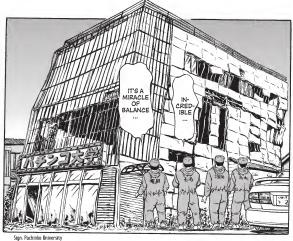










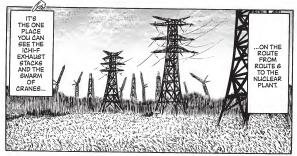






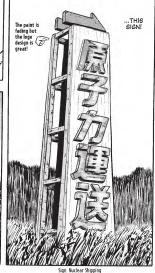
Sign. Warning Slow Down

People like to take photos here, but you're not allowed to stop and get out!



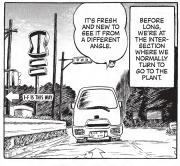






Sign: Fukushima Dailichi Nuclear Power Plant





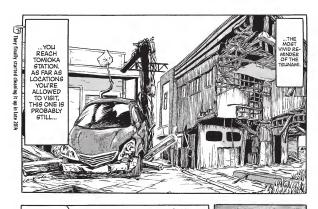












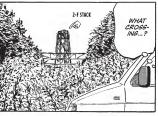


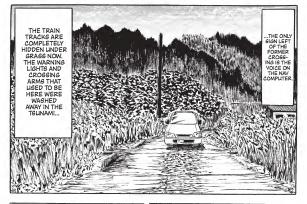
Until 2013, there was nothing between here and the sea



















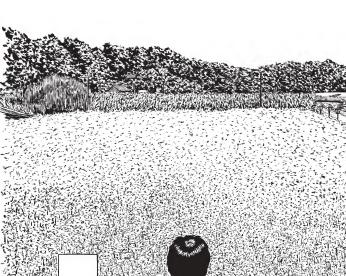






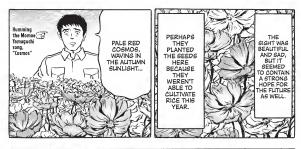


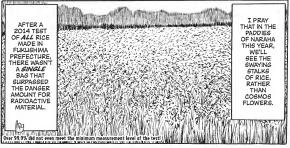




THE UNAT-TENDED FIELDS WERE FULL OF BLOOMING COSMOS FLOWERS.











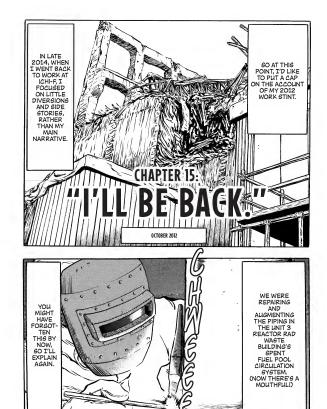


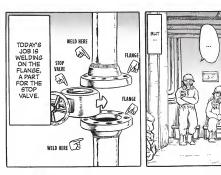
## CONTOUND SANDIMOU

WHILE SERVICE HAS RESUMED TO ADJACENT TATSUTA STATION, THE RECOVERY EFFORTS AROUND TOMINGAS STATION ARE NOT VERY FAR ALONG. AS SHOWN IN THE PREVIOUS CHAPTER, THE TRACKS ARE COVERED IN GRASS AND WEEDS, AND YOU CAN'T SEE THE CROSSING. THANKFULLY, THE CLEARING OF WRECKAGE BEGAN IN LATE 2014. WE'RE LOOKING

FORWARD TO THE EVENTUAL RECOVERY.























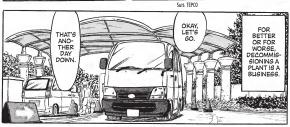
It's the monitor's job to collect discarded Tyveks and waste material











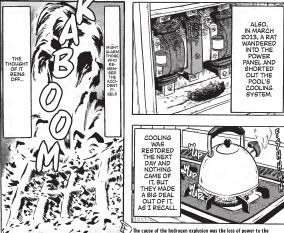


HAVE

THEY

RE-

SUMED COOL-ING. THEN?



reactor cooler, not the fuel pool





The data is updated every day on TEPCO's website







THE DESIGNATED YEARLY RADIATION EXPOSURE LIMIT FOR NUCLEAR WORKERS IS 50 MILLISIEVERTS. AND 100 MSV OVER FIVE YEARS. BUT MOST COMPANIES IMPOSE A LIMIT OF NO MORE THAN 20 MSV. WHICH MAKES 100 OVER FIVE YEARS.

15-2-2-3-1-31-

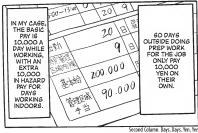








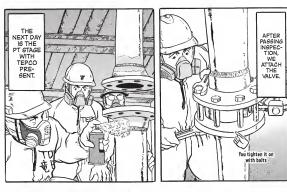
Chart: Work Amount, Special Management Area Work, Basic Rate, Management Area Compensation







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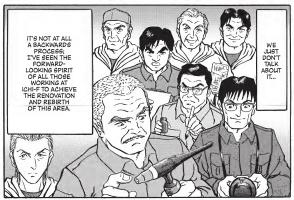






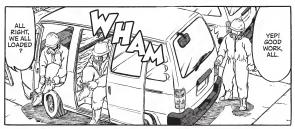


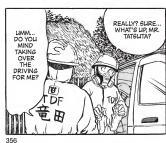








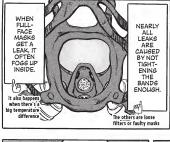












































USUAL

Sheet: Whole-Body Counter Results, Test Date: 10/29/2012





Circle: (Certified)

Top Sheet: 10/2/2012, Tokyo Electric WBC Center, Kazuto Tatsuta 1925 cpm





Bottom Sheet: Kazuto Tatsuta, 1682 cpm









This is my imagination - WBCs don't have alarms



Sign: Tokiwa Hospital























The next time I came here, this (the upper floor wreckage of the Unit 3 Building) wouldn't be here











PUT SOME SHOE COVERS SIR. ON GETTING IN THE

We wear two layers in high-contamination environments

Absolutely no riding with contaminated shoes!

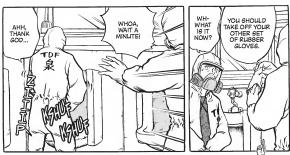




It can easily take most of an hour during busy periods

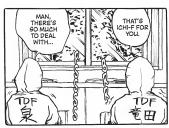






















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EXTRA STORY - END

THE NAME (MEANING "EYE-LIGHT") COMES FROM THEIR LARGE, GLOWING GREEN EYES. THE MEHIKARI CAUGHT AROUND IWAKI ARE ESPECIALLY FATTY AND DELICIOUS HIEM HIGHLY PRIZED AT THE FISH MARKET. THERE WAS NO FISHING HAPPENING IN IWAK!

AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE UNTIL A TEST WAS DONE ON OCTOBER 18TH, 2013, TWO YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS LATER. THEY PULLED UP EIGHT TYPES OF FISH. INCLUDING MEHIKARI.



MEHIKARI IS
FANTASTICALLY GOOD
WHEN FRIED.
ITS IDEAL
SEASON IS THE
COLD MONTHS,
FROM NOVEMBER TO
FEBRUARY.



















THEY HAVE A PRACTICE AROUND HERE OF GETTING BIG TATTOOS, SO IF THEIR BODIES WASH UP, THEY CAN BE IDENTIFIED.























EXTRA STORY 3 - END

# TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 2





## ENKA, PAGE 294

A kind of sentimental, soulful music that rose to prominence in the first few decades after WWII. Although some of the performance and instrumental elements of enka are Western in nature, the melodies, subject matter, and singing style are rooted in more traditional Japanese folk music. Performers often wear kimonos, and the songs tend to be about lost love, close bonds, and lonely, righteous suffering. The singing style of enka involves long, drawn-out notes delivered with a nasal vibrato that may seem strange to first-time listeners. As musical styles evolved throughout the late 20th century, enka came to be considered "old-fashioned," but it remains a popular and iconic style of Japanese music.

### TANABATA, PAGE 301

A summer festival holiday that literally means "evening of the seventh." It is meant to honor the meeting of lovers Orihime and Hikoboshi, two gods who are represented in the night sky by the stars Vega and Altair. The lovers' paths only cross on the seventh day of the seventh month. Due to the differences in calendars over the years, certain regions of Japan celebrate Tanabata on different days (this is true of certain other holidays as well). The Tohoku (northeast Japan) region celebrates it in August, rather than July. In addition to the usual summer festival activities. Tanabata is characterized by the writing of wishes on strips of paper called tanzaku that are attached to bamboo trees





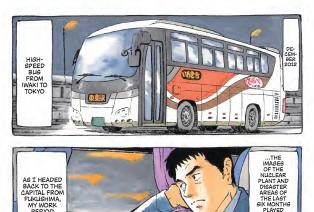
### STATE SECRECY LAW PAGE 310

A 2013 act proposed by the cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and passed by the National Diet. It prohibits and punishes the release of information that the state considers relevant to national defense. This includes such topics as defense systems, foreign affairs, counterintelligence operations, and anti-terrorism efforts

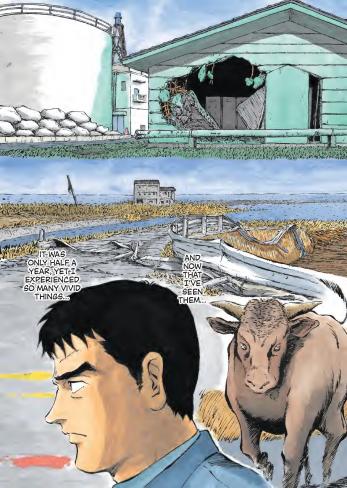
# ICHI-F











There are no night lights in the restricted zone, so the stars are vivid!













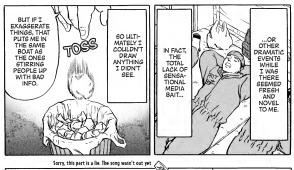


Always on the hunt for material by nature





























Too spiteful to just go back home TZL GIVE AND HE THE DIDNT NEXT EVEN PLACE GIVE Α ME HIS SHOT. CARD. TALK ABOUT STRIKING. OUT!



Would rather try everything in one outing





Definitely lying now 389























I know all the sketchy places to ignore by now







This got rejected, but you can see shades of it in Chapter 2















zine: Morning 393





Phone: Incoming OXI Ind



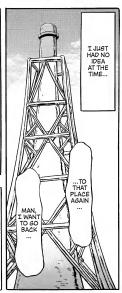
One of the subcontractors whom I asked to call me once they got an Ichi-F contract











CHAPTER 16 - END



# CHAPTER 17

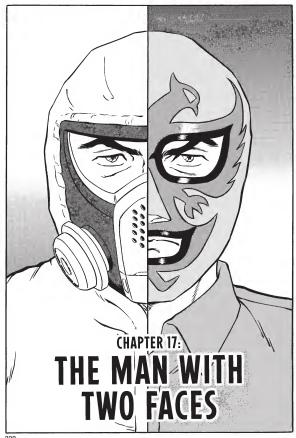








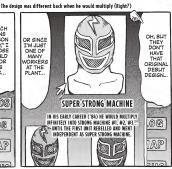


















































Chapter 4: Fukushima Summertime Blues (Part 1)





PARDON ME MAY I GAR'S HAND'S AGK WHO'S GPEAKING? PLAINT?



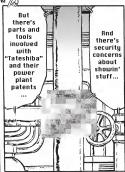




























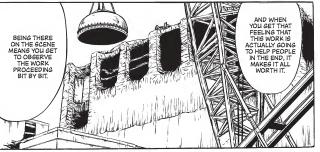
















WELL, MY DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE COMPLETELY FLIPPED AROUND LIVING HERE, PLUS I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THESE EDITORS BEING ALL OVER MY BACK WITH

THE LIFE OF A COMIC ARTIST IS MUCH LESS HEALTHY. SAME THING FOR US EDITORS.











Board: [obscured] Bookstore, Kazuto Tatsuta





An autograph for a bookstore to display









Phone: Incoming Call Tamachi Industrial









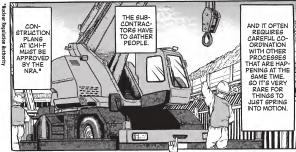








Carefree without the deadlines











Tired of putting on the uniform - done with the image and it's too hot!





\*The 3Ds are "Dirty, Dangerous, and Demanding" blue-collar jobs. In Japanese these are the 3Ks, for "Kitanai, Kiken, Kitsui."











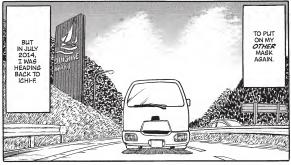














## WHILE FICTIONAL NAMES HAVE BEEN USED FOR COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS, TATSUTA ALWAYS HAD CONCERN THAT THOSE CLOSE TO THE SITUATION WOULD FIGURE IT OUT IF THEY READ THE COMIC. SO WHEN TATSUTA FOUND WORK AGAIN AT ICHIF IN 2014, BOTH HE AND HIS EDITOR WERE RELIEVED. INCIDENTALLY, SINCE FINISHING HIS DEPICTION OF THE 2014 WORK STINT, TATSUTA HAS NOT RECEIVED ANY CALLS ABOUT NEW JOBS THERE.



## NOTHING GENERAL

## **CHAPTER 18**

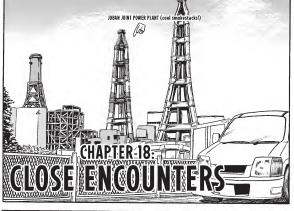












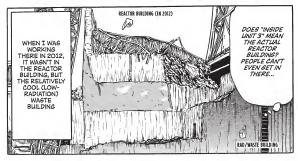
















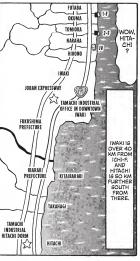
















Street Signs: Uchigomidaisakai









Former roommate - quite tanned now!







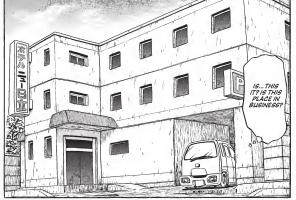


Sign: Ripe Pork Cutlet









Sign: Hotel New Hitachi









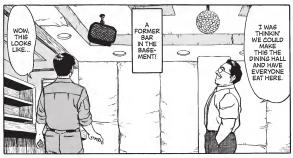














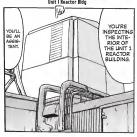


Depending on the contract terms, companies might pay a certain percentage of salary as a standby payment while you're waiting. If not, some of them find odd jobs like this for you to do. My first subcontractor, Kuromori Construction, sent us on civil engineering jobs.





























A collection of subcontractor workers, as well as employees of the primary subcontractor making their first Ichi-F trip













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It's cold! What a delight!

Under construction in 2014











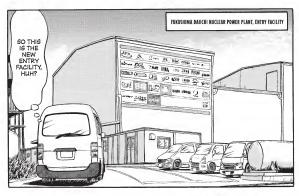


















UP ON THE SECOND SOME FLOOR TEAMS THERE CHANGE ARE HERE LOCK-AND ERS HEAD AND out... GEAR.

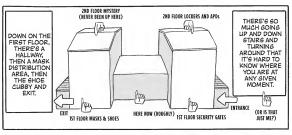


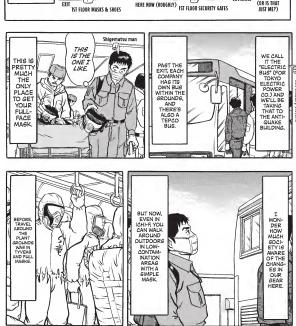




436

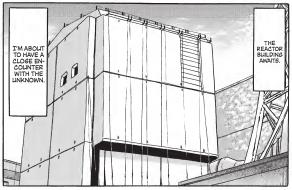
Touch panel (very unresponsive!)











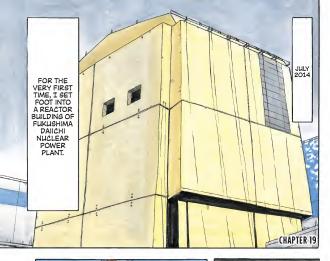


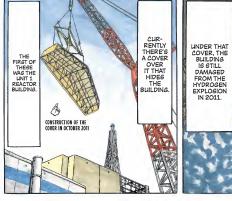
TOWN HALL ALONG ROUTE 6, MADE UP OF BUSINESSES THAT HAD TO EVACUATE FROM NARAHA, OPENED UP ON JULY 31ST, 2014. IT'S ABOUT 15 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF ICHI-F. AS DEPICTED IN CHAPTER 14, TATSUTA'S FAVORITES ARE TAKÉ-CHAN CAFETERIA'S CHIVES-AND-LIVER STIR FRY AND ORAHO-TEI'S CITRUS SOFT SERVE.

THIS TEMPORARY MALL IN FRONT OF THE NARAHA

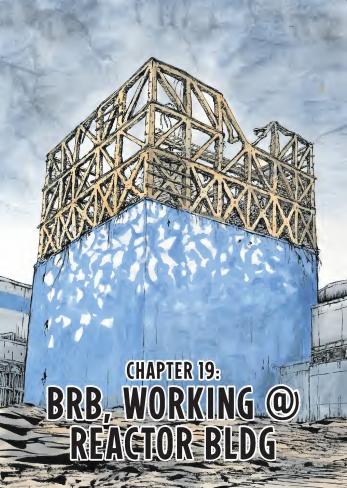


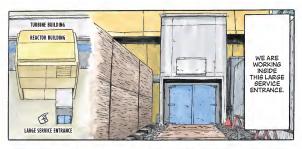
CLEANUP AND ICHI-F W O R K E R S A N D RESIDENTS PREPARING TO RETURN CAN MAKE THIS "THEIR STOP." (BY THE WAY, THE EVACUATION ORDER FOR NARAHA WAS LIFTED ON SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2015.)

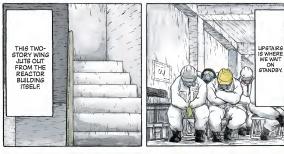




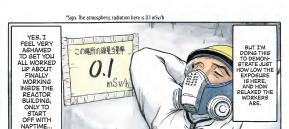




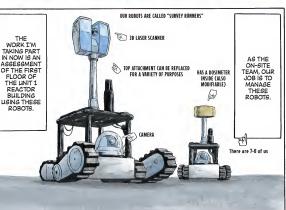














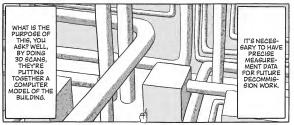








Storebought game controller

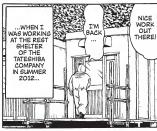


The computer can compile and assemble the laser scanning



Just thinks it's grown men playing video games











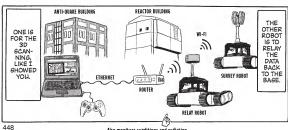


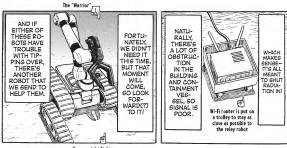
But still going back to sleep



Takes hard work to lower it down (about 40 kg (90 lbs)?)

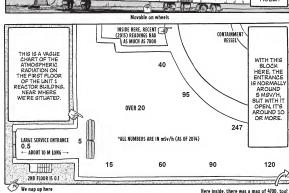






Heavy weight Fighter





## There are other work teams going in and out, so sometimes you see hoses and cables that serve some unknown purpose







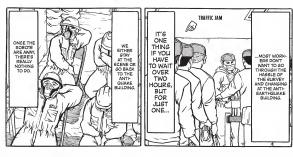




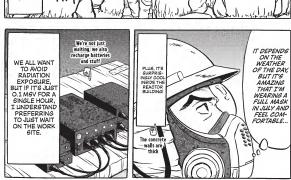






















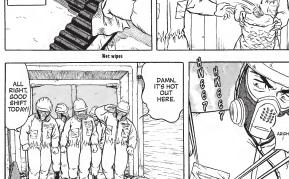










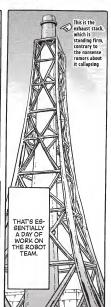


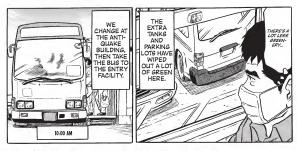
First alarm (my limit today was 2.0 mSv, so it's at 0.4 right now)

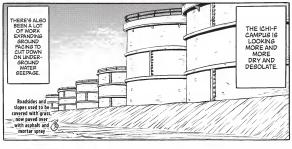






















They had put out my first collected volume and advertised the second as "coming this fall!"



(This is around when I was drawing Chapters 9 and 10)







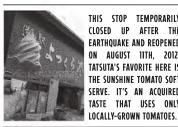
It rolls onto the truck lift on its own





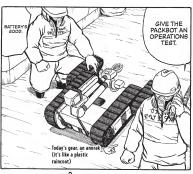






THIS STOP TEMPORARILY CLOSED UP AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE AND REOPENED ON AUGUST 11TH, 2012. TATSUTA'S FAVORITE HERE IS THE SUNSHINE TOMATO SOFT SERVE. IT'S AN ACQUIRED TASTE THAT USES ONLY

## **CHAPTER 20**



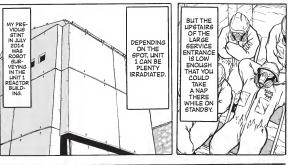


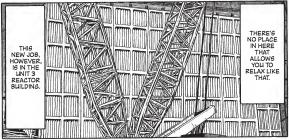










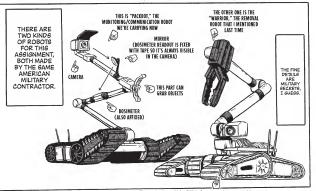


The reactor building is through here DAMN, IT'S SHALL HEAVY THIS IS WE SET RIGHT IN WE'RE IT DOWN FRONT IN THE FOR A OF THE UNIT 3 SEC? AIRLOCK TURBINE THAT BUILD-GOES ING. TO THE REACTOR BUILDING ITSELF. Mini

There are spots over 10 mSv/h, especially perpendicular to the opening, so we always dart to the side

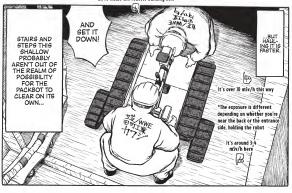


It's only about 20 kg (45 lbs), but there are no easy handles to grasp

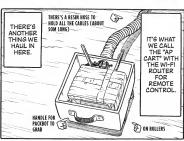


This one's about 70 kg (155 lbs), so it can't be carried by people

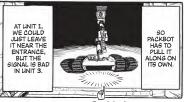








AP = Access Point



We set it down here









As the team leader, I got an extra 2,000 yen a day - up to 22,000 now!





## I always get cautious around people who hammer the "internal radiation" and "children" keywords...













AND AFTER
STUDYING
THE GENETIC
MUTATIONS IN
THE CHILDREN'S
CANCER CELLS,
THEY WERE
DIFFERENT
FROM THOSE
OBSERVED AFTER
THE CHERNOBYL
ACCIDENT.





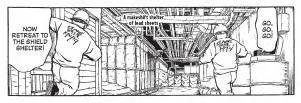


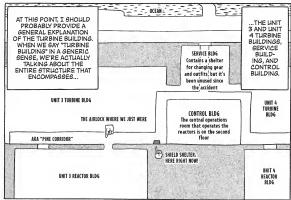




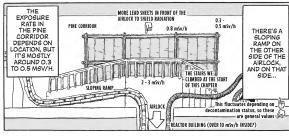


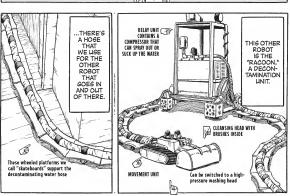
























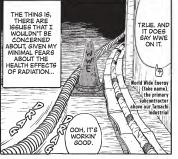


































Former Naval SDF

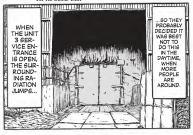




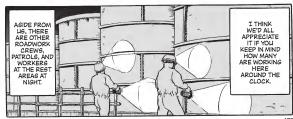


























When the phone rings too early, it's usually because it got stuck somewhere

















482

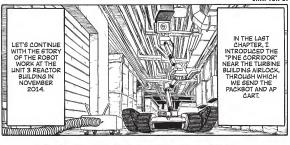


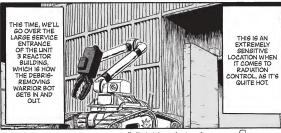
## MEMORIAL ARTIQUES

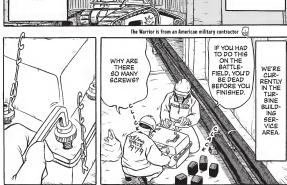
THIS FACILITY TAKES ITEMS FOUND DURING THE TSUNAMI WRECKAGE CLEANUP EFFORTS SUCH AS PHOTOS AND ALBUMS. IT'S IN THE TOWN OF NAMIE NORTH OF ICHI-F, ON THE OCEAN SIDE OF ROUTE 6. YOU DON'T NEED TO BE A RESIDENT TO BROWSE, SO TATSUTA VISITED A FEW TIMES AFTER ROUTE 6 REOPENED. IT ALSO HAS ITEMS LIKE STUFFED ANIMALS AND GUITARS.



## CHAPTER 21

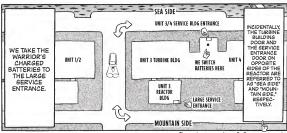




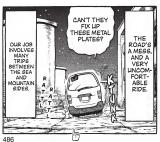








The service entrance is totally flat, not a mountain. It's probably meant in contrast to "sea," nothing more.

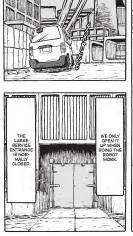


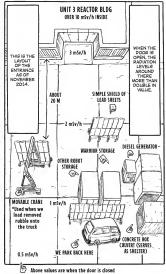
















We wrap them in plastic for protection and hang them around our necks



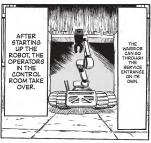


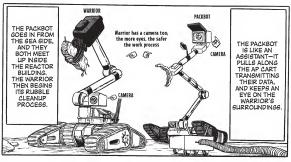


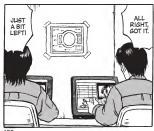


Electric-powered

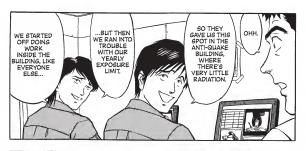










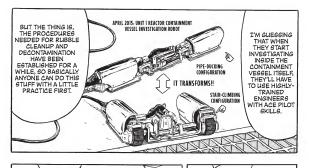














Ordinary storebought controller





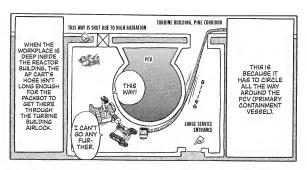




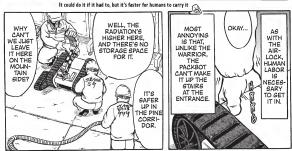




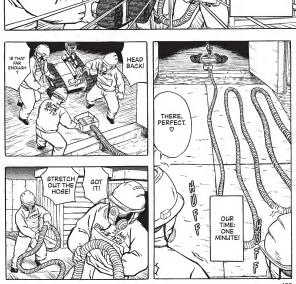
















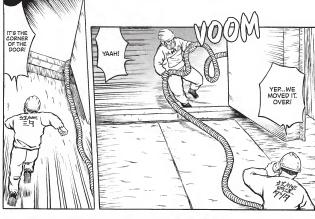
When the service entrance is open, even this spot is a few mSv/h



















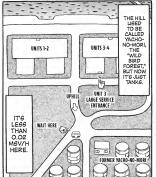








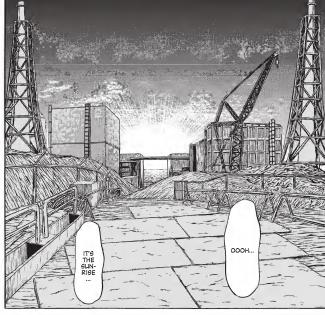




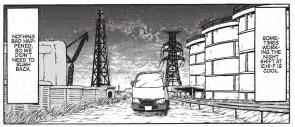












Wait one hour at a 1 mSv/h spot and you do indeed end up with 1 mSv







A clerk comes over immediately





Records are taken













## Hem must be placed inside the sock

















CHAPTER 21 - END





A RENOWNED COMPOSER FROM FUKUSHIMA PREFECTURE. HE WAS ACTIVE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WWII, AND WROTE MANY FAMOUS PIECES LIKE THE "OLYMPIC MARCH" FOR THE OPENING CEREMONIES OF THE 1964 TOKYO OLYMPICS, AND THE THEME FOR THE SUMMER KOSHIEN HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TOURNAMENT. TATSUTA'S REPERTOIRE OF OLD TUMES INCLUDES MANY OF HIS SONGS, ESPECIALLY "NIGHT OF THE IOMANTE." IN CHAPTER 11, HE DEPICTED A PERFORMANCE OF KOSEKI'S "THE HIGHLANDS TRAIN RIDES ON" AT A TEMPORARY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT.

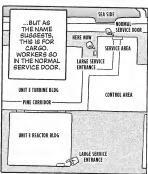






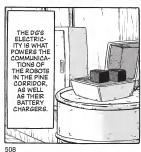










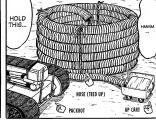








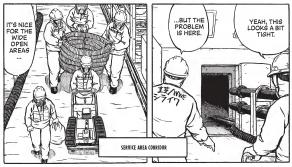


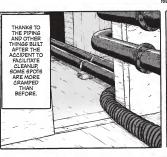




















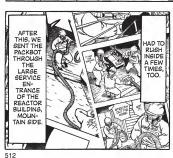




\*In our lingo, we often call highly-contaminated things "radioactive," because it seems like they might as well be a source of radiation.























Chapter 13









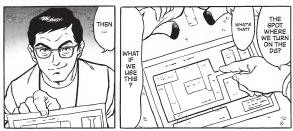




Open-air bath with a gorgeous ocean view

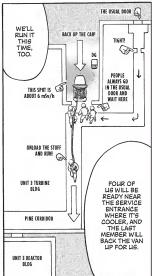
















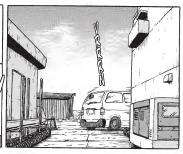




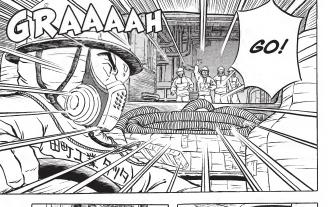














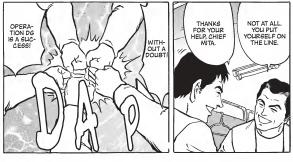
























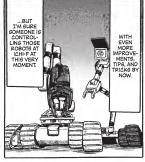














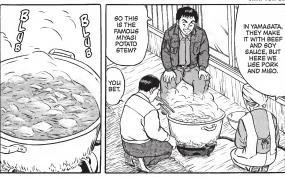


HOTSPRINGS

AS WE'LL TOUCH ON IN THE SPECIAL EPILOGUE, THERE ARE MANY HOT SPRINGS AROUND ICHI-F, AND TAISUTA MADE THEM A FREQUENT STOP ON HIS WAY BACK FROM A SHIFT. SOME FAVORITES THAT DIDN'T MAKE IT INTO THE STORY ARE KANIARAI HOT SPRING IN YOTSUKURA, WHICH REOPENED IN JULY 2013, SAHAKO-NO-VU IN THE YUMOTO NEIGHBORHOOD, AND THE NEABBY PUBLIC BATHHOUSE JONOYU.



## **CHAPTER 23**







Sign: Resident Center 527



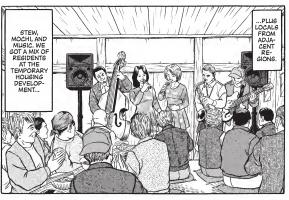




























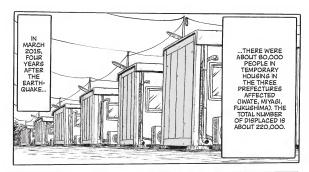






532

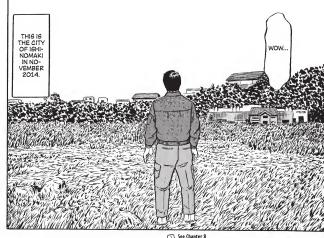
Sign: Resident Center

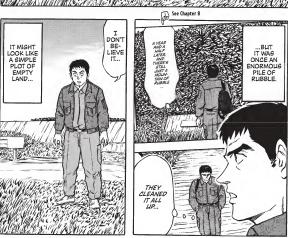


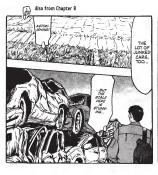
















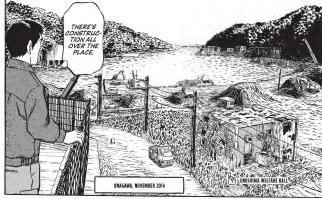
ADVANCED IN SOME PLACES, AND GONE NOWHERE IN OTHERS. SOME SPOTS ARE DIFFERENT, SOME THE SAME.

(Under debate whether to preserve as disaster monument)

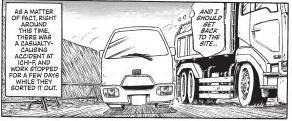
THE DISASTER REGION ISN'T JUST A BIG MONOLITH-CONDITIONS AND PROGRESS

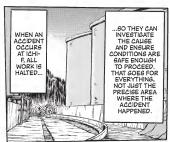
ARE DIFFERENT EVERY PLACE YOU LOOK.



















THAT STIPEND DOESN'T TAKE ALL THE OTHER ELEMENTS OF A DAY'S PAY INTO ACCOUNT, EITHER. HERE'S MY USUAL DAILY PAY.

**Basic Amount** 10.000 yen + High-Exposure Site Pay 10,000 yen

> Team Leader Pav 2,000 yen

> > **Daily Total** 22,000 yen

вит WHILE, YES. THE STAND-

BY STI-PEND IS "HALF" OF MY TOTAL...

You only get half of the IT'S NOT basic ACTUALLY rate HALF OF 22,000 These

get paid

if you're

AND

don't (4

YEN.

Basic Amount 5.000 ven

**Kigh-Exposure** Site Pay 0 yen

Team Leader Pay on-site 0 yen

**Daily Total** 5.000 ven

THE DAILY AMOUNT IS ONLY 5,000 YEN. CT'M HAPPY TO GET ANY-THING AT ALLD





















Paper: Decontamination worker arrested for shoplifting



















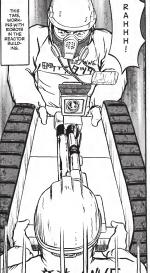


Sign: Koriyama Station









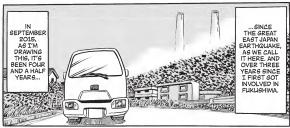






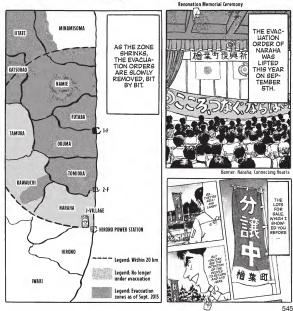












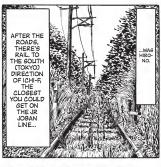
See Chapter 14









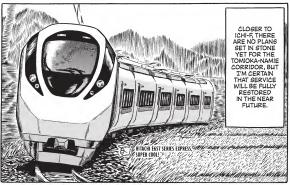








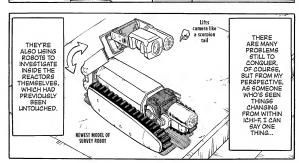












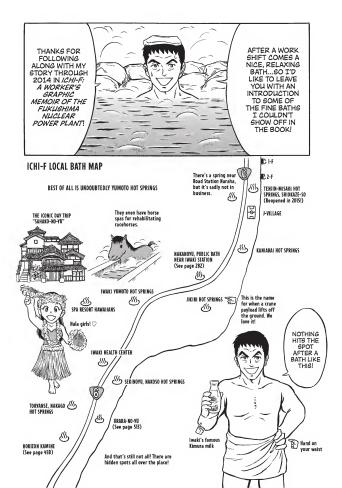
NOTHING WILL HAPPEN THAT CAN BE WORSE THAN WHAT ALREADY HAPPENED.

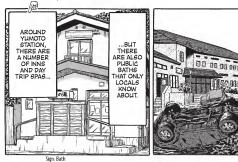


IF THIS MINDSET CAN SPREAD, THEN I BELIEVE THE RECOVERY OF THE ENTIRE TOHOKU REGION, NOT JUST FUKUSHIMA, WILL BECOME THAT MUCH GMOOTHER.



# ICHI-F END













### TRANSLATION NOTES, PART 3

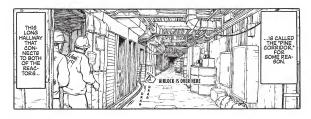


#### UNDER SIEGE 3: DARK AREA, PAGE 386

The original Japanese title here translated to "The Silent Power Plant," a play on the famous Silent Service manga series by Kaiji Kawaguchi, master of Clancy-esque military/political thrillers. The series, started in the late 1980s, revolves around a nuclear submarine jointly developed by the US and Japan. When the Japanese captain declares the submarine its own independent state, it causes dramatic shifts in Cold War relations and results in tense underwater battles and political intrigue. The adapted title is, of course, a reference to Seagal's Under Siege movie series, of which Tatsuta is a fan.

#### PINE CORRIDOR, PAGE 473

The Great Pine Corridor was a part of the old Edo Castle. It was a 50-meter-long open hallway along a courtyard, named for the wall screens depicting pine trees along its length. Its fame comes from its part in the incident of the "47 Ronin," which has been dramatized in books, TV, and movies. Lord Asano Naganori was forced to commit seppuku for the crime of attacking a court official who insulted him. The attack took place in the Pine Corridor. The 47 samurai who followed Asano planned and executed a revenge killing of the official to restore their late master's honor, after which the shogun allowed them to commit seppuku and maintain their honor, rather than being executed as criminals. While the tale may be somewhat fictionalized, its grisly nature and deep themes of loyalty and honor make it a popular one to this day.



#### SDF. PAGE 478

Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan outlaws war as a means of settling international disputes, effectively ruling out the possibility of a military. Instead, the armed forces of Japan are called "Self-Defense Forces" (SDF). or *jiei-tai* in Japanese, a small peacekeeping force that essentially functions under the United Nations. The SDF is technically classified as an extension of the national police and, in accordance with Article 9, is held to a level below that of "war potential." This article has been the subject of much national debate over the decades since its



establishment in 1947, especially in recent years.

#### MOCHI. PAGE 529

A kind of sticky rice cake. Traditionally, the rice is ceremonially pounded flat in a rounded wooden bowl with a heavy wooden hammer called a kine. One person pounds the mochi and another flips it over in a precise fashion; the rhythm is very important to avoid injury. Mochi can be eaten as-is or flavored in various ways.

lt's a traditional treat the New Year's period, and, due to the extreme stickiness, it's a consistent choking hazard. Chew carefully!



## TO MY AMERICAN REAPERS... STAY SAFE!



#### 0&A WITH KAZUTO TATSUTA, AUTHOR OF ICHI-F

This exclusive interview appears only in the U.S. edition of *Ichi-F*, and was conducted on December 7, 2016, between staff at Kodansha Comics, Kazuto Tatsuta, and Mr. Tatsuta's editor.

**KODANSHA COMICS:** Let's start with something light. You've said that you do visit Fukushima from time to time. Is there anything you really miss about it? Food, places, etc.?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: That's a good question. Things I miss... I really miss the workplace. It's been over a year since I had a work assignment there. I'd love to see what it looks like at this moment.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about aside from work?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, any place aside from the power plant, I can just visit anytime I want. But you can't actually go inside Ichi-F, which only makes the pull stronger. Also, since I was last there, they've built a much more comprehensive shelter area with a cafeteria, and a convenience store, and everything. I want to check it out and see how the food at the cafeteria is.

**KODANSHA COMICS:** I'm sure you've gotten many questions about the role of nuclear power and nuclear power plants before. There's worldwide concern about the impact of nuclear power. In previous interviews, you've claimed that your experiences are not meant to be commentary on the decommissioning effort. Is that still your stance on the matter?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: That's right. As the author of *Ichi-F*, I'm not trying to argue for or against nuclear power plants, or question their role in society. That's not the point of the comic.

KODANSHA COMICS: This will be your first published work in English. Is there anything you want the English-speaking readers of Ichi-F to know or understand about your experiences there?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Mainly, just that Fukushima Daiichi isn't really some terrifying place full of negligent, unsafe conditions where people are practically forced into slave labor, as some might have you believe. The folks working there are all just ordinary old guys, most of whom are locals from Fukushima, and the rest coming from all over the country to help. That's what I want you to know.

KODANSHA COMICS: Are there foreign workers, too?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Not that I've seen. Or should I say, I've never seen a worker who was clearly foreign in origin. I've seen news reports about Brazilian workers, but if they're there, it's a very small number.

KODANSHA COMICS: This report on your experiences will seem at times very distant, and yet also quite familiar to readers abroad. What can foreign readers do, if anything, to offer support or help with the decommissioning effort?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, we're certainly busy enough handling the power plant on our own, so I don't think there's any point to attempting to come help the decommissioning process. What would make me happiest is for people not to view Fukushima through tinted glasses. Don't be afraid of food from Japan. Don't be afraid to come and visit Japan. I think that's enough for us.

KODANSHA COMICS: So, don't be shy about traveling to Japan to see the country?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Fukushima is a wonderful place. It seems like many tourists in Japan will travel away from Tokyo to the southwest, to Kyushu, but far fewer of them go up north to the Tohoku region. Fukushima isn't the only tsunami-affected area that's struggling up there due to lower tourism—surrounding regions like Miyagi and lwate are, too. It would make me really happy for you to visit them. Not to gawk at the damage or treat them with tender sympathy, but just to go and treat them like normal. That would be more than enough.

**KODANSHA COMICS:** This year (2017) marks six years since the initial incident. How do you think the public's perception of Ichi-F has changed?

**KAZUTO TATSUTA:** I feel like it largely hasn't changed. It seems like it's still misunderstood and feared by much of the public. But a lot of the initial panic about it being the "end of Japan as we know it" has disappeared as time has passed, so I hope that the fears continue to ease.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about you? How has your personal perception changed?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: It certainly has changed since the first time I went there. I was quite apprehensive about going in there, and while it's certainly not all just a walk in the park, when it comes to doing the actual work, I found that it was controlled in a way that removed nearly all of that concern. In many ways, it's just like any ordinary work site with ordinary people there. Since then, my view hasn't changed much. Mostly, I just feel frustration that this hasn't been expressed to the rest of society very well. Whenever something happens at Ichi-F, even now, it gets treated as this massive emergency that leads to crazy rumors and stories. That's always been frustrating to me. And there was that aftershock recently.

KODANSHA COMICS: We were going to ask you about that. There was another fairly large earthquake in Fukushima quite recently (November 2016), with tsunami waves of around a meter high. Could you talk a little about your feelings on that?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, I was in the Tokyo area when it happened, and we got a fair amount of shaking, somewhere around magnitude 5. It took a while from the first jolt for the real shaking to start, so I realized it was pretty far off, and wondered if it was up north again. Once I was able to see the news reports, and they mentioned the height of the tsunami, I knew it would be all right. As a matter of fact, I actually visited Fukushima later that day—it was already in my plans. I left at midday and got there in the evening, and it was totally business as usual in Fukushima. Meanwhile, the cooling system at the spent fuel pool at Fukushima Daini stopped temporarily, and it turned into a big media panic. But as you'll know if you read *lchi-F*, the cooling system gets turned off all the time during work, so an hour of inactivity is nothing. TEPCO announced that, and the media explained it as well before the day was done, but of course, some people are still going to call it the end of Japan. I get a little discouraged because every time something happens, there are always some people who don't get the message.

MR. TATSUTA'S EDITOR: You put out some very calm and rational commentary on Twitter, and it got a bunch of retweets.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Over ten thousand retweets, in fact. I also gained about a thousand followers. Basically, I was just saying that they turn off the cooling system to the pool in order to do work on it fairly often, and that people shouldn't exaggerate the issue and cause undue panic.

**EDITOR:** So the fact that your tweets were getting spread around is a good sign that some people are getting the message.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: It was good to see it spread, but it also made me realize that a lot of people are still worried about that kind of stuff.

**KODANSHA COMICS:** How do you think this aftershock might affect the recovery and decommissioning process?

**KAZUTO TATSUTA:** Fundamentally, it won't have any effect. If anything, I think it's shown that a magnitude 7 or so won't have any effect on Ichi-F. They had a one-meter tsunami, and that didn't do any damage.

**KODANSHA COMICS:** There were quite a few aftershocks when you were working there in 2012. Was the operation able to continue without too much trouble back then?

**KAZUTO TATSUTA:** Well, they've done a lot of analysis on what level of earthquake is safe to keep working through, so the crews themselves aren't worried about it. Of course, there's the possibility of something unexpected happening, but that's true of anything, anywhere. I doubt a magnitude 7 would cause any problems. If there was another 8 or 9, and it caused another big tsunami—well, the plant isn't operational anymore. So it's almost impossible to have some kind of doomsday explosion or vast spread of contamination at this point.

KODANSHA COMICS: What is your next plan as a manga artist, or any other profession?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Well, I plan to make a living as a musician now (laughs). I'm joking, of course. I've told a number of subcontractors in Fukushima that I'm available for work, so I'm always ready to do another stint if it comes around, but it's an infrequent thing, and I haven't heard from them. As far as Ichi-F goes, I can't really continue onward unless I have another work experience to depict. There are a few little stories and angles that I'd still like to show off to the readers. I'm trying to come up with manga drafts for them, but I'm sad to say that the progress is very slow (laughs).

EDITOR: Let's just say that we're hoping to have some new material this year.

KODANSHA COMICS: You mentioned music. Is there any other area you're interested in?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: For now, I think it's just the music.

KODANSHA COMICS: What about drawing something related to music?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Good point. Shoot, I should have brought one of my CDs!

KODANSHA COMICS: You played live music over in Fukushima, correct?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Yes, and I write some songs themed on what I saw there. In fact, I even have some that I wrote while I was there in 2012. I can't believe I didn't bring them!

**KODANSHA COMICS:** You did include some scenes of yourself playing music in *lchi-F*, so I suppose the people who have read it are familiar with that side of you.

KAZUTO TATSUTA: After the most recent earthquake, I did go and play another show for a senior home. And I do them around Tokyo, too. In fact, I'm performing in Kawasaki this Saturday. I've got Kawasaki this week, Hachioji next week, then Sagamihara and Soshigaya-Okura the week after that. It's a little national tour. Or a Kanto region tour, I suppose...Maybe I should try an American tour, too (laughs).

KODANSHA COMICS: Is there any last message you'd like to send to the readers in America?

KAZUTO TATSUTA: Wow, a serious question after we just got a little silly (laughs). Well, I'm sure the Americans have a lot on their hands right now. We're watching what's unfolding there from Japan, too. As far as Fukushima Daiitchi Nuclear Power Plant is concerned, based on the opinions of those working there, the plant itself is very stable now, and the chances of a sudden dangerous turn are practically nil. So continue to pay attention, if you can, but don't worry too much. And most of all, try to think of Fukushima like you would of any other city or area—don't treat it like a disaster area or subject of pity, and that would make everyone happiest.

KODANSHA COMICS: Thank you.

#### UNIFORM LIST

Here is a list of the names as they are written on the uniforms for those interested. Most are surnames, but deviations from this naming convention are listed as they appear.

竜田/タツタ - Tatsuta 大野 - Ono 木戸 - Kido	オノ - Ono 明石 - Akashi 宮田 - Miyata
赤井 - Akai	クボ - Kubo
田代 - Tashiro	松木工業 - Matsuki Industries
大洋- Taiyo (COMPANY NAME)	ツルオカ - Tsuruoka
中塚 - Nakatsuka	山洋 - Sanyo ((OMPANY NAME)
カトウ - Kato	沖田 - Okita
キリヤマ - Kiriyama	金谷 - Kanaya
クラタ - Kurata	タカハシ - Takahashi
タケナカ - Takenaka	マツダ - Matsuda
佐竹 - Satake	本多 - Honda
三沢 - Misawa	井口 - Iguchi
近藤 - Kondo	長町 - Nagamachi
ソガ - Soga	大畑 - Obata
フルハシ - Furuhashi	立栄 - Ritsuei (COMPANY NAME)
泉 - Izumi	ウメモト - Umemoto
伊吹 - Ibuki	高木 - Takagi
岸田 - Kishida	長橋 - Nagahashi
上野 - Ueno	尼子 - Amako
アマギ - Amagi	ミサキ - Misaki
ノムラ - Nomura	ヤシキ - Yashiki
南 - Minami	ツルミ - Tsurumi
秋山 - Akiyama	大原 - Ohara
矢住 - Yasumi	タケ - Take
サトウ - Sato	植田 - Ueda
塩田 - Shioda	牛込 - Ushigome
玉名 - Tamana	中郷 - Nakago
関本 - Sekimoto	タカハギ - Takahagi
江田 - Eda	坂元 - Sakamoto
北目 - Kitame	磯原 - Isohara
川前 - Kawamae	前泊 - Maedomari
ナカジマ - Nakajima	田町工業 - Tamachi Industrial
시네 - Ogawa	(COMPANY NAME)
ツルシバ - Tsurushiba	オオシマ - Oshima
里中 - Satonaka (COMPANY NAME)	シライワ - Shiraiwa

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The publication of this important, wonderful book in the United States would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of many people. Thank you first and foremost to Kazuto Tatsuta, who allowed us to work with him to recreate the Ichi-F experience in a left-to-right reading format, to his editor and the staff of Kodansha (Yae Sahashi, Masae Watanabe, Naho Yamada, and Kana Koide, to name a few!) for their constant support and championship of the book, to Ben Applegate, Stephen Pakula, and the rest of my colleagues at Penguin Random House and Kodansha Comics, for acquiring the book, and supporting it all the way through from translation to release; to Stephen Paul, for not only his fantastic translation, but his research and his dedication to getting this book exactly right; to James Dashiell and Deron Bennett/AndWorld Design, for their tireless retouching and lettering, and their boundless patience; to Phil Balsman for his extraordinary cover design; and to all others who have supported the book and made this whole thing possible.

We hope this book entertains, educates, and enlightens, and that through this book, we can provide a glimpse into the world of Ichi-F.

Thank you for reading!

Lauren Scanlan, Editor, Kodansha Comics

#### Ichi-F

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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